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Police carry away a right-wing protester who was trying to pray on the Temple Mount during yesterday's Tisha Be'av fast. Story, Page 3.

Ross tells PM: Assad still wants peace talks

A FLURRY of diplomatic activity swept the Middle East yesterday as US envoy Dennis Ross and Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat tried to mend strained relations with Syria and coax Israel and Syria back to the peace table. Ross made his way from Syria to Amman to Jerusalem, in the wake of French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who took his peace mission on the same route earlier in the week. Arafat held talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad to mend strained relations and forge a common stand for future peace talks with Israel, officials said. Syria wants to further peace efforts and learn more about the new Israeli government, Ross told Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu yesterday. "He said President Assad of Syria desires to further the peace process and is interested in learning more about Israel's new government and about Prime Minister Netanyahu," a statement issued by Netanyahu's office said. It said Ross and Netanyahu would meet again today. "Ross added that Assad is still in the process of making decisions and is interested to know on what basis negotiations with Israel could be furthered," it said. The statement said Netanyahu expressed his government's desire to further talks and quoted him as saying, "We are considering different ways to continue the process."

"Among the ways to further these talks, the issue of Lebanon was also raised and it was agreed that the continuation of the process will be done in a considered way after deep consultations," the statement said. "We had a chance to begin a further process of consulting on where we are and how best to move ahead," Ross told reporters as he left the meeting. Syria wants talks with Israel to focus on the Golan Heights before negotiating on Lebanon, but has not closed the door on the latter possibility, Ross told Netanyahu, an official in Jerusalem said. Netanyahu has said that Lebanon is the "place to begin," and sources said Israel wants to deal with Syria on Lebanon before discussing the Golan. Both US and Israel say Assad

US: Saddam barely escaped assassination attempt

MEMBERS of Iraq's elite Republican Guard recently set off a bomb in one of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palaces five minutes after he departed, US officials said, citing what they called "credible Iraqi opposition sources." Up to 300 people were later executed in connection with the bombing, the officials added. US officials refused to say whether they could independently confirm the attack. One US official said he believes it did occur and deemed the move the "most serious coup attempt yet against Saddam." Details of the attempt, which reportedly took place during the first week of this month, remain sketchy. The official said it remains unclear whether the blast occurred in one of Saddam's palaces in Baghdad or in his hometown of Tikrit. He said there has also been activity against Saddam among the super-elite Special Republican Guard unit, which protects Saddam and is headed by his son, Uday.

TWA black box reveals 'unexplained sound'

EAST MORICHES, New York (AP) - Divers recovered TWA Flight 800's data and cockpit voice recorders in good shape early yesterday. According to initial reports, there was a quarter-second recording of an "unexplained" sound at the end of the tape. The tapes included the final conversations of the cockpit crew and the data recorders showed in-flight readings and measurements. President Bill Clinton said he had ordered new and immediate steps to increase US airline safety and security after the TWA crash off New York and other recent US air disasters. "Today I am announcing new measures to increase the safety and security of airline travel," he said in a statement at John F. Kennedy International Airport. "The safety and security of the American people must be our top priority." Clinton had just finished meeting for several hours with families of some of the 230 people who died when the plane crashed

US official: Despite pressure, Syria is providing safe haven for terrorists

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - US pressure on Syria to end its support for extremist groups is having some effect and will continue, a senior State Department official told Congress yesterday. "Syria continues to provide safe haven and logistic support to a variety of terrorist groups, both Arab and non-Arab," Philip Wilcox, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said at a House of Representatives International Relations Committee hearing. Wilcox named Hamas, Hizbullah, the Islamic Jihad and the Kurdish PKK as some of the groups backed by Syria. "Syria does not define the activities of the groups as terrorism," he said. He said Washington would retain economic sanctions against Syria and keep it on its list of countries that support terrorism until Damascus ended all support for the groups. "We think our policy has had an impact on Syria. We have no evidence of direct Syrian involvement in terrorist acts since 1986, in contrast to some other states designated as sponsors of terrorism such as Iran, Iraq and Libya," he said. "Syria has used its influence from time to time to restrain Hizbullah rocket attacks across the Israeli border. The Syrian government has also demonstrated that it can use its influence to deter Palestinian rejectionist groups resident in Syria to avoid acts of international terrorism outside Israel and the West Bank and Gaza." Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman, a New York Republican, accused Syria of involvement in drug trafficking and said stronger US action may be needed. "The seeds of peace cannot be sown in an atmosphere of active support for narco-traffickers and terrorists," he said.

Up to 100,000 expected tomorrow at Rehov Bar-Ilan protest

A MASSIVE rally demanding the Shabbat closure of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan is expected tomorrow, with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani expected to meet with haredi leaders today in an effort to make sure the protest doesn't turn violent. Police estimate 100,000 people, including many coming from elsewhere in the country, will attend the rally. Rehov Bar-Ilan will be closed from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the demonstration, which is to begin at Kfar Shabbat in Mea She'arim, then continue in a march to Rehov Bar-Ilan. Organizers have promised police they will be responsible for crowd control, and that the event would not turn violent, a police spokesman said. Hundreds of policemen are to

be on hand to keep the peace, the spokesman added. The demonstration is the first at which police will be operating under Kahalani's "new" guidelines aimed at lowering tension between demonstrators and police. Mounted police and water cannon will be kept far from the site of the protest.

Four killed, four injured in road accident near Ashdod. FOUR people were killed and four injured on the Ashdod-Ashkelon highway early yesterday when a van driver who was apparently speeding veered into the oncoming lane and hit another vehicle, police said. They said the driver, Abed Hassan, 22, of Lod, who was among the dead, had in the past committed seven serious traffic violations, including three incidents of veering out of his lane. "We suspect that this is what caused this terrible accident," said Lachish District Police chief Ch. Supt. Edgar Raviv. (Tm)

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Labor-Ram coalition crisis in Histadrut

LABOR'S Histadrut faction is threatening to leave the coalition if Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz reshuffles top Histadrut positions, a violation of the coalition agreement.

Peretz said yesterday that he is determined to bring the personnel changes to the Histadrut parliament for approval next Sunday, even if it causes the coalition to break up.

Labor faction members yesterday accused Peretz and MK Haim Ramon of attempting to gain control of the Histadrut apparatus and use it as a political power base in the upcoming Labor leadership primaries, the Histadrut elections and the next Knesset elections.

Labor faction sources said that Peretz is using the reshuffle as a ploy to bring the Histadrut labor councils' section, which controls the local labor councils and thousands of activists, into the hands of the ruling Ram faction.

The sources charged Ramon and Peretz with trying to build a political power base outside the Labor Party so that they can field a rival list in the Histadrut elections, and later in the Knesset elections, if Ramon fails in his bid to win Labor's leadership.

Peretz, who has asked to be

MICHAL YUDELMAN

nominated Labor's candidate in the Histadrut elections, hotly denied these accusations at a stormy meeting with Labor's faction leaders yesterday. He said he had no intention of setting up an independent list outside of Labor.

However, Labor faction leaders warned that unless Peretz stops acting against Labor's interests in the Histadrut, he can forget about being the party's candidate in the Histadrut elections.

Before the last Histadrut elections two years ago, Labor MKs Ramon, Peretz and Shmuel Avital formed the New Life faction and joined Peretz and Shas in the Ram list, which ran against Labor and won the Histadrut leadership. After prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination last November, Ramon quit the Histadrut chairmanship, was replaced by Peretz, and the three MKs returned to Labor.

However, within the Histadrut the three maintained the separate Ram faction, which continued operating in a coalition with Labor.

After the Knesset elections, Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron (Meretz) decided to leave his post and concentrate on his Knesset position. That's when Peretz

decided to bring about a reshuffle in the Histadrut. He decided to give Labor the Histadrut's trade union section and treasury, in exchange for the personnel and labor councils' section, which Labor now holds.

Labor refused to give up the labor councils' section, charging that Peretz's real intention is to get hold of that section, in addition to securing a good job for Avital, who failed to win a place on Labor's Knesset list.

"It's all part of a cynical political plan of Ramon's to take over not only the Histadrut, but the Labor Party leadership, via the Histadrut apparatus," a Labor faction source said yesterday.

The sources said that Ram activists are not among the hundreds of veteran Histadrut workers being fired and that, despite the mass dismissals, the new Histadrut leadership has hired 257 new workers on personal contracts over the past two years.

In most cases, the new workers are drawing huge monthly wages while the Histadrut squabbles with the dismissed workers over severance payments. The sources cited the case of *Davar Rishon*'s workers, who say they have not received severance pay since the paper closed two months ago.

Israel complains to PA over wounding of 2½-year-old Israeli

ISRAEL filed a complaint with the Palestinian Authority yesterday about the wounding of a two-year-old girl by a Palestinian policeman.

A family from Tira was driving home from Kalkilya on Wednesday night when a Palestinian policeman suddenly shot at the car, shattering its rear window and lightly wounding the girl in the head.

Both Israeli and Palestinian security forces quickly came to the site, located in Area B, which is under Palestinian Police control, though the PA police is not allowed to arrest Israeli citizens.

The IDF slapped a closure on Kalkilya last night and prevented Israelis from entering the city. A joint investigation was launched.

A Kalkilya doctor treated the girl's wound. She was later examined at the Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava and sent home.

A Palestinian Police spokesman said a policeman had signaled to the driver to stop and, when he did not, the policeman fired one shot into the air and one at the car. The driver apparently did not notice the policeman.

The policeman was arrested and a hearing at

the Kalkilya Military Court will be scheduled, the spokesman said. The policeman had been informed that he is not allowed to arrest Israeli citizens, the spokesman said, but "we are not immune from making mistakes."

There have been several incidents recently in which Palestinian policemen fired on Israelis in Area B.

The IDF regards the incident as very serious and has filed a complaint, the IDF Spokesman said. The area commander will meet today with his Palestinian counterpart to discuss the incident. (Iim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Golan Druse burn police station

Druse residents of the Golan Heights raised a Syrian flag over a police station they burned to the ground Wednesday night, security sources said yesterday.

Residents of Mas'ada village in the northern Golan broke into a police station and set it ablaze close to midnight Wednesday, the sources said.

They then pulled an Israeli flag off the station's flagpole and hoisted a Syrian flag. Police said the station is often closed at night and was empty at the time of the incident, but that it would now be manned 24 hours a day. Reuter

Six soldiers injured in accident

Six soldiers were injured, some lightly and some moderately, when their vehicle overturned while traveling between positions on the northern border yesterday. OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine appointed an officer to investigate the accident. Im

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's *Paysis* Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 761578 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 471277 won a car.

Tickets numbered 368044, 579019, 509594, 501106, 427820, 284339, 336013 and 678161 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 68692, 36677, 49661, 43720, 64496, 79584, 25407, 87031, 13784, 15172, 79029, 97270, 78398, 17856, 73508 04719, 25721, 05328 and 50573 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 378, 469, 076, and 554 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 51, 31, 59, 30 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 49 and 15 won NIS 20.

Tickets ending in 9 and 4 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's *Mifal Hapaysis* daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, jack of hearts, jack of diamonds and seven of clubs.

Iran claims Israel holding four Iranians

BONN (Reuters) - Iran's ambassador to Germany has said that Israel is holding four Iranians hostage, and he has asked Bonn to help secure their release, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* reported yesterday.

Ambassador Hussein Mousavian told the paper that Israeli forces had taken hostage three diplomats and a journalist from Iran when they invaded Lebanon in 1982.

"It is a constant concern of the Iranian government to win the release of these Iranians from Israel," he said. "These four Iranians were the first victims of the hostage-takings in Lebanon."

Mousavian said Iran had no information about missing IAF navigator Ron Arad.

Israel believes Arad, missing in Lebanon since 1986, is in Iran. German intelligence coordinator Bernd Schmidbauer, who coordinated the MIA-prisoner swap between Israel and Lebanon last weekend, says he believes he is alive.

Mousavian named the missing Iranian diplomats as Seyed Mohsen Mousavi, the former charge d'affaires in the Beirut embassy, Ahmad Mozvazani, and Taqi Rasizgar Moghadam.

The journalist is Kazem Akhavan Afak, Beirut bureau chief for the Iranian news agency IRNA, he said.

IDF soldiers kill two gunmen in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) - A booby-trapped car exploded in south Lebanon yesterday, killing its owner, a South Lebanese Army security officer.

In another incident, IDF soldiers killed two gunmen in a clash in the security zone.

Israeli security sources said the clash occurred in the central sector of the zone. There were no Israeli casualties.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the car attack in a communique issued in Tyre. Security sources said the car, a white Mercedes, blew up in the security zone when the SLA officer, identified by his code name of Abu Kasseem, started the ignition.

Lawyers for IDF training school head call for charges to be dropped

COL. Moni Horev's lawyers yesterday asked the attorney-general to drop the negligence charges pending against his client relating to Yonatan Shoshan's death in a training accident.

Shoshan was mortally wounded in 1994, when a fragmentation grenade went off in his webbing during a training exercise in Lebanon. Horev, who was recently appointed head of the IDF Officers' Training School, as the Givati Brigade commander at the time, Horev claims, however, that when the accident occurred, Shoshan's battalion was not directly under his control.

Earlier this week, the judge advocate-general, after giving Horev a hearing, decided not to waive the charges against him.

The High Court of Justice is to rule today on a petition by the Shoshan family to suspend Horev from his post at the training school. The petition says that an officer charged with involvement in the death of a soldier should not be responsible for the training of other officers.

Sixteen reserve officers wrote a letter of appeal to the Shoshan family, the chief of general staff, the interior minister and the judge advocate-general asking that Horev not be suspended until the end of legal proceedings. They said that since the trial would take at least two years, it would mean the end of Horev's army career.

"We, who were responsible for the lives of hundreds of reserve soldiers, understand the Israeli parent's pain from both sides. Despite the pain of the tragic death of Yonatan Shoshan, we think that Col. Horev should not be suspended from his present post," wrote the officers, all of whom have held commands that Horev had previously held. (Iim)

TWA

The boxes, which are actually orange, were transported to Washington in water and plastic bags to prevent them from drying too quickly, which could damage the data.

The closed meeting this morning between Clinton and the victims' families was announced amid bitter complaints that the recovery of bodies was going too slowly and that officials were giving conflicting reports. Clinton also attended a briefing by investigators.

The recorders, which are carried in the tails of jetliners, were found in the tail section wreckage almost directly underneath a Navy search and rescue vessel, Francis said.

The divers were able to find them even though the "pings" the recorders emit were not detected. The pinger on one box had been knocked off in the crash, an official said.

So far, investigators have only collected 1 percent of the plane's wreckage and about half the bodies from the ocean floor. So far 114 bodies have been recovered, and 95 of them positively identified.

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• Beit She'an	02-9110550	• Be'er Sheva	79-406450	• Kiryat Yotam	04-8709102	• Ramat Gan	03-6738121	• Ramat Hashikma	03-6428310
• Caesarea	06-960178	• Be'er Sheva	03-5046223	• Lod	08-9230428	• Ramat Hashikma	03-5463664	• Ramat Hashikma	03-6428310
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July 26, 1996



A border policeman prevents right-wing demonstrators from setting fire to the Palestinian flag outside Orient House yesterday. (Reuters)

Netanyahu won't change Temple Mount status quo

BILL HUTMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has no intention of changing the status quo on the Temple Mount at this time, as demanded by several right-wing groups, government sources said yesterday, after 11 Jews were detained for trying to pray at the site.

Officials from the Prime Minister's Office, General Security Service, and police met Wednesday with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to review security arrangements at the Temple Mount, and consider the possibility of permitting Jewish worship there.

The sources said the idea was unanimously rejected. MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), a leader in the fight to end the ban on Jewish worship at the Temple Mount — in effect since 1967 on grounds it would spark unrest among the Moslem population — was informed of this, the sources said.

"There is a government decision from 1967, and it must be enforced," Kahalani told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Personally, I think it would be good if Jews were allowed to pray on the

Temple Mount. But if you ask me what my recommendation is now, it is no. Changing the status quo at this stage would only cause unrest there, and we don't need that at this time."

Right-wing activists working to overturn the ban had counted on Netanyahu to back their cause, but have been informed recently that there will be no change, at least in the near future.

The 11 Jews detained were members of Hai Vekayam, which had declared Tisha Be'av the start of a new campaign to fight the ban.

Members of the Temple Mount Faithful also protested near the Mugrabi Gate, and several dozen of them were allowed to enter the Temple Mount in pairs. Each pair was accompanied by policemen to prevent them from praying and ensure the visit did not provoke unrest.

Also yesterday, the families of the late Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Rabbi Haim Druckman tried to pray atop a building bordering the Temple Mount compound, sparking cries of "Allah akbar" from Moslem worshippers, before the

families were forced down by police.

They had been allowed into the building to pray in the top-floor synagogue once used by Goren. Police said they snuck out of the synagogue and went onto the roof, despite being specifically instructed not to do so.

A police spokesman said the ban on prayer on the Temple Mount has been upheld repeatedly, and as recently as this week, by the High Court of Justice, and is aimed at keeping the peace in the area.

Hai Vekayam leader Yehuda Etzion said the group had given Netanyahu until yesterday to change the policy, and is now renewing its fight.

"If blood is spilled, only the government can be held responsible," he said. "What are we asking for? Only that Jews can pray on the Temple Mount. Is this really so evil?"

"All these people standing here, and many others, voted for Binyamin Netanyahu because he promised to allow Jews to pray on the Temple Mount," Gershon Salomon, head of the Temple Mount Faithful, told reporters.

Netanya underworld figure murdered

A NETANYA underworld figure was gunned down yesterday morning, apparently in a struggle for control of gambling in the town.

Yitzhak Zigdon, 25, was on his way to work at a library for the blind, where he was serving out a six-month community service sentence for extortion. As he parked his car in the library parking lot at 7:45, a man walked up to him, shot him several times, and fled.

Zigdon had a long record of property and drug offenses, and had recently become involved in the city's gambling rackets.

Meanwhile, the remand of Sahab Abu Saliman, suspected of involvement in Tuesday night's Lod shooting, in which a 13-year-old boy was killed, a two-year-old girl seriously wounded, and a woman shot in the leg, was extended for 10 days by Rehovot Magistrate's Court.

The shooting was apparently related to a feud between rival gangs of drug dealers, but the gunman apparently missed his target and hit three innocent bystanders. The police provided what it considers to be the reason for the shooting to the court in a confidential document.

The police said that the suspected gunman is still at large and said that if Abu Saliman were released, he could interfere with the investigation.

Abu Saliman's lawyer said his client insists he is innocent, and had offered to take a lie detector test, but the police turned him down. He said his client is being held hostage by the police until his son turns himself in. (from)

Ya'acov Alperon paroled despite A-G's objections

YA'ACOV Alperon, jailed for underworld-related activities, was released yesterday after the High Court of Justice rejected a request by the attorney-general to delay his release until it rules on a petition against the parole.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair yesterday petitioned the court against the decision by the Ma'asiyahu Prison parole board to release Alperon after three-and-a-half years in jail because of good behavior. A representative of Ben-Yair's office presented the committee with intelligence information showing that Alperon continued to run the family crime operations from his prison cell. The operations allegedly include Mafia-style debt collection, extorting protection money and managing gambling clubs.

In his petition, Ben-Yair argued that Alperon had a long list of previous convictions, most of them for violent acts. He has served many prison sentences and during most of them also won the confidence of the parole board, which decided to release him early. However, Ben-Yair said he believed that Alperon had betrayed the parole board's confidence in the past and returned to his criminal ways.

In June 1993, Alperon, 42, was sentenced to seven years and seven months in prison for several crimes, some of which were carried out two weeks after he was released from prison.

Ben-Yair expressed concern that the 1995 car-bomb attack against Moussa Alperon indicates that the family is involved in the setting of

scores, in which Ya'acov Alperon may take on a central role if he is released. (from)

Netanyahu cancels cabinet meeting on settlements

Jerusalem Post Staff

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday cancelled a discussion slated for today's cabinet meeting about housing construction in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Netanyahu has made it clear in recent statements that he wants to build more housing in the existing settlement blocs and along the bypass roads that have already been built or are being built to link settlements.

Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said Netanyahu has been conducting a series of consultations on the subject. However, he has not yet set a date for bringing the matter to the cabinet.

According to a report in yesterday's *Ma'ariv*, the Housing Ministry has prepared a plan for the construction of 7,000 new apartments in four existing settlements, 5,000 of them for hardtim.

The sites are Kiryat Sefer (4,000 units), Betar (1,000 units),

Ma'aleh Adumim (2,000), and Givat Ze'ev (2,000).

Kiryat Sefer and Betar are hardtim communities. Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, and Betar are considered within the confines of "Greater Jerusalem."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu is scheduled to meet leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza next week.

The settlement leaders have a long list of demands for expansion, starting with the cancellation of the freeze imposed by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on the sale of 3,000 of the 10,000 apartments that were built in the territories in 1991 and 1992 and left empty ever since.

Half of the empty houses have since been occupied, either through quiet deals or by illegal takeovers.

Observers of the settlement scene say Netanyahu's first step will be to allow families to move into the empty apartments.

Tourism slowdown worsens

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE downturn in tourism that began in April has become more serious, as shown by figures provided by both the Hotel Association and the Civil Aviation Administration.

The Hotel Association reported a 14 percent drop in tourist accommodation in June, compared to June 1995. The slowdown began in April, with 7% fewer bed-nights for foreign tourists and continued to worsen in May, with a slump of 11%, compared to the same months last year.

The year had started as a bumper year for tourism, with an increase of 27% in bed-nights by foreign tourists in January and February, and a 14% percent jump in occupancy rates. By March, after the wave of suicide bombings, there were only 9% more bed-nights by tourists.

Worst hit was Jerusalem, where the Hotel Association reported a drop of 18% in foreign tourists during June, as well as three percent fewer Israeli bed-nights. The occupancy rate in Jerusalem during June was 61%, compared with 74% in June 1995.

The Civil Aviation

Administration figures for June show a drop of 4.5% in the number of incoming and outgoing passengers compared to June 1995, from 555,000 to 529,000. The hardest hit were apparently El Al and its charter subsidiary Sun-Dor, which suffered a combined drop in passengers of 13% and a drop in market share from 45.7% to 41.9%.

Meanwhile, the foreign carriers showed an increase of 3%. Especially significant was Air France, which showed a 70% jump in the number of passengers.

Although it was second only to TWA in the number of passengers carried by a foreign airline, Turkish Airlines had a drop of 20%, reflecting the decrease in the number of Israelis visiting Turkey.

Commenting on the figures, El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said the company's poor showing for June reflected both a drop in visits by foreign tourists and a decrease in the number of Israelis going abroad. Many Israelis canceled reservations as vacation

time approached, he said, apparently as a result of the present economic situation.

Although the company had accurately predicted the drop in Israelis going to Turkey, it had anticipated a corresponding jump in other nearby destinations, such as Cyprus and Greece. This has not materialized, he said. On the other hand, Kleiman said, many Israelis are continuing to visit the US, Canada, and England.

In a related development, Royal Jordanian Airlines complained that the Israeli authorities are discriminating against them by forcing them to fly over the Mediterranean before landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, thus extending the flying time of 13 minutes by 25 minutes. The company, which, like El Al, now has five flights between Ben-Gurion and Amman, has asked for additional flights, as well as flights between Amman and Haifa and between Ben-Gurion and Akaba. These requests have all been refused.

The company said it would raise these issues during Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's upcoming visit to Jordan.

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The Norwegian Law

BOTH the initial and final days of the 14th Knesset's first session showed that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, despite his status as Israel's first directly elected premier, has far to go in establishing his control over the government coalition. When the government was sworn in last month, Netanyahu was unable to name his full cabinet, due to the protracted argument over a portfolio for Ariel Sharon. And this week, as the Knesset dispersed for its long summer recess (it will not reconvene, except for emergency debates if needed, until October), the lack of an agreed-upon religious affairs minister scuttled the government's first major piece of legislation, the so-called Norwegian Law. The argument over who should head the Religious Affairs Ministry first, Shas or the National Religious Party, is not as petty as it might seem at first glance; the ministry's NIS 1.2 billion budget and the opportunities it offers for political appointments make it an attractive post for both parties. Shas reminded Netanyahu of the strength of their feelings on this issue by delivering a sharp slap to the government's face on the Norwegian Law. After appointing Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi to head the Knesset House Committee—a controversial appointment, since this committee decides whether to recommend lifting an MK's immunity, and Pinhasi is one of those MKs whom the attorney-general plans to charge—Pinhasi paid the prime minister back by voting against the government's request to rush through its Norwegian bill. This is a pity, because the passage of the Norwegian Law would go a long way to improving the smooth running of both the government and the Knesset. The principle behind the law is simple enough: all the ministers, except for the premier, resign their Knesset seats. This relieves the ministers of all Knesset duties and allows them to concentrate on their main job of running a government ministry. It also ensures a Knesset filled with active parliamentarians,

who are concerned primarily with what goes on within the Knesset compound. The present system, which follows the British model, under which cabinet ministers are chosen primarily from sitting parliamentarians, works in Britain because the House of Commons consists of over 600 members of parliament. With such a large parliament, the frequent absence of government ministers from parliamentary debates hardly affects the work of the rest of their colleagues. But in Israel, roughly one in three MKs is either a current or a former minister, deputy minister, retired army general, or mayor. These MKs are often unfamiliar with, and bored by, mundane, painstaking legislative work, much of which demands both experience and expertise, and does not generate publicity. Yet democracy demands that this work be done: meticulously, professionally and passionately, by legislators who see in law-making a full-time occupation, rather than a pastime or a springboard to greater things. In the first Knesset, the cabinet barely comprised a *minyan* (the religious quorum of 10 men). But since then, cabinet membership, if deputy ministers are also included, has ballooned to nearly three times that number. Though the Law for Direct Election of the Prime Minister limits the number of ministers to 18 and that of their deputies to six, the division between ministerial work and Knesset performance is still not wide enough. The introduction of the Norwegian Law, so called because under that country's 1814 constitution legislators leave the Storting (parliament) upon appointment to a cabinet post, would be a welcome complement to the recent change in Israel's electoral system. It would enhance not only the cabinet's work, but the Knesset would also see an improvement in its stature, particularly vis-a-vis the cabinet, whose actions would face a closer and more systematic scrutiny from an assembly of full-time representatives.

Shabbat shalom

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani promises a kinder, gentler policeman. In an interview today with *The Jerusalem Post*, Kahalani says "the policeman must be like a big brother. The public should feel good when he is around." The minister's policy will soon be put to the test: a massive demonstration of tens of thousands of haredim, demanding the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, has been called for tomorrow. Indeed, it has been these recent Shabbat demonstrations in the capital that have caused Kahalani to reconsider crowd-control policies. Over the past few years, the Jerusalem police in particular have been criticized for preferring drawn to brains when confronting demonstrators, and it is promising to see that the new minister is not prepared to turn a blind eye to reports of police brutality. At the same time, Kahalani must ensure that

his criticisms of police tactics—earlier this week he talked of policemen "breaking beads for no reason"—are not taken by some as a sign to ignore police orders, or that the battle to close Rehov Bar-Ilan has already been won. The High Court of Justice has yet to rule on whether Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy can unilaterally order the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan, a major traffic artery, during prayer times on Shabbat. Until a ruling is issued, the road must remain open. The sight of mounted, Jewish policemen facing off against demonstrators is general, and baredim in particular, always evokes distressing historical associations, and one hopes that this Shabbat, Jerusalem will be spared such trauma. However, this depends as much on the demonstrators as on the police. Kahalani has called on his men to show restraint; it is up to the baredim leaders to reciprocate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMS

Sir, — Karen Markuz's report of July 9 quoting my misgivings about steep traffic fines for speed violators did not precisely convey my ideas. Quite simply, too many Israeli drivers have become addicted to speed—largely as a result of the raised speed limit. Enforcement programs have to reach detection levels which not only catch the speeders, but deter all others whose speeds just exceed the speed limit if we are to produce big, fast drops in death and injury tolls. Roadside speed cameras can do this, but police patrol cars cannot. Most of the death and injury comes from small increases in speed involving large numbers of drivers. The Netanyahu program, using cameras to detect speeding and tailgating, showed that speeds can be brought down and death and injury tolls reduced by 40 percent. Even low fines have been shown to have a sustained impact on those of us who are habituated to high speeds. But the really high speeders—the speed junkies and speed pushers—should be taken off the road to

protect themselves and others. Drivers who drive at very high speeds should be stigmatized, especially if they are senior politicians. They are role models for hooking the public on kinetic violence in the same way that drug pushers hook victims on narcotics. Less than \$10 million is the cost of setting up a nationwide program of speed cameras, the later operation of which would be financed by the revenues from fines. The government's safety fund has a reserve of some \$40 million in unspent funds, and yet the Road Safety Authority has abruptly cut off the Netanyahu program, which costs peanuts. This is an obscene outrage. I held the past government accountable for the rise in the death toll, unique to Israel. This government will be held accountable for failure to produce large immediate reductions in the death toll. ELIHU D. RICHTER MD, MPH, Betz Injury Protection Program, Hebrew University—Hadassah Medical School Jerusalem.

MANUEL LABOR

Sir, — The new minister of labor has vowed to rid us of the tens of thousands of foreign workers. He has also promised to replace them with potential terrorists from Gaza. Doesn't anyone consider the possibility of us Jews doing our own manual labor? In England, in Germany, even in Saudi Arabia, the local native elite import foreign workers as they are almost literally incapable of dirtying their own hands. People say that, in our modern world, this is an accepted norm. There is, however, one tiny difference. No other national suffered persecution in exile for 2,000 years until finally being blessed by God with our own country, Eretz Yisrael. If doing our own physical work now has become so abhorrent and therefore so totally unacceptable to us, I think we can sadly conclude that we have become a horribly arrogant and decadent people. Quite pathetic, in fact. MIKE GLAZER Ganei Tikva.

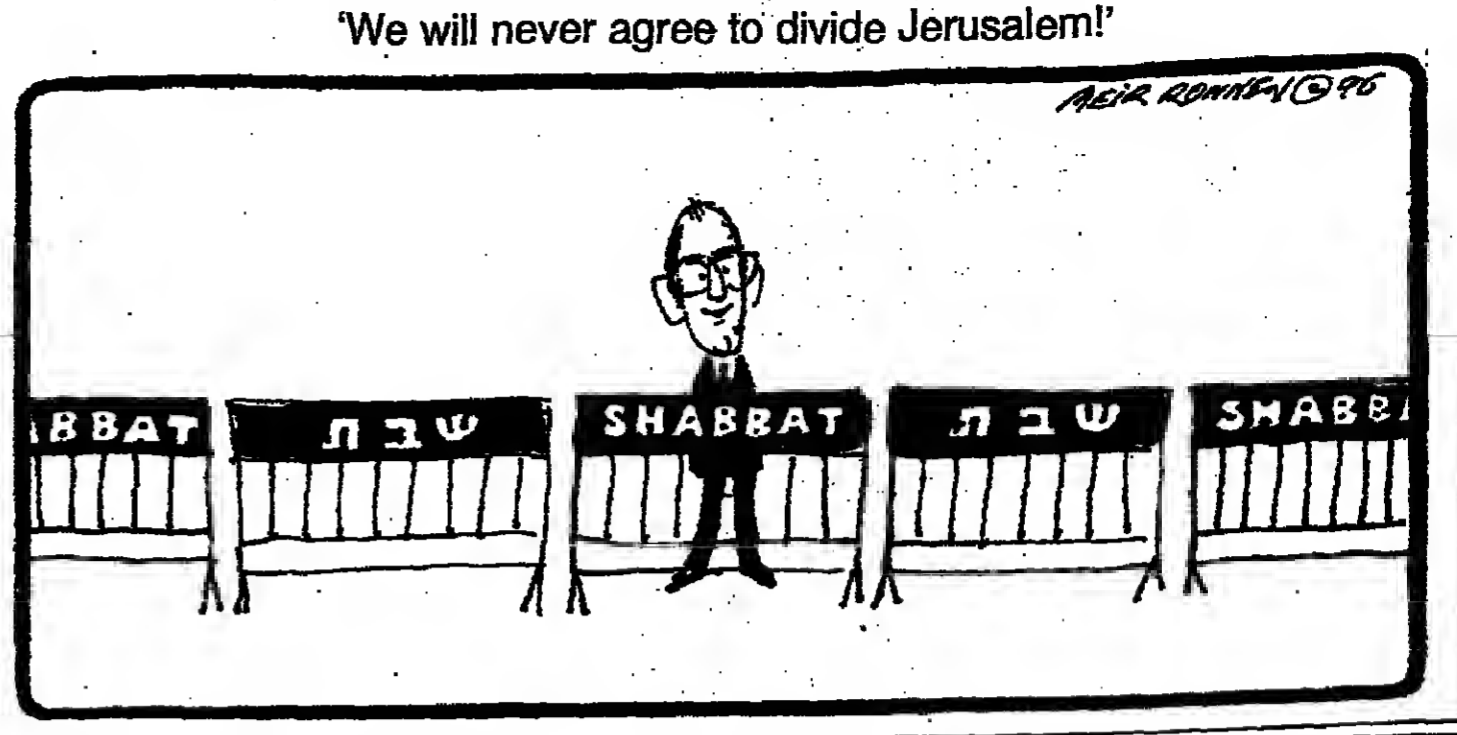
TWA SECURITY

Sir, — Almost immediately after the tragic air crash with its huge loss of lives, TWA announced that security would immediately be " beefed up." This gives the impression that, until the crash, their security was inadequate. If this was so, TWA has a lot to answer for. If security is adequate, how can it possibly be "beefed up"? Or was this an announcement made, hoping that future intending fliers will be reassured and will not cancel their bookings? SYD SILVER Ashkelon.

MURDER

Sir, — I was perplexed to read in your paper of July 19 that the president has pardoned two female Palestinian murderers of Jews, along with reducing prison terms for four Jewish murderers of Arabs. What's next? Release Yigal Amir—he did only what he thought was best for his people—or a no-limits policy for euthanasia, abortions and capital punishment? Jailing people is awful, but release of murderers is not the first step to correct that. A Jewish or any

civilized state and society has to take a stand against killing and murder, period. Other people may not value life as much as the Jewish tradition does; but our stand against acquitting the murderers is not against Arabs, it is against murder. Like sexual violence is not a sex crime, but a crime of violence, so political murder is not a form of politics, but plain murder, and politics should be kept out. MAURITS VAN ZUIDEN Jerusalem.



Father and son guard the land

I was still a teenager when in 1966 I first visited Amatzia, a moshav on Israel's border facing the Hebron Hills. A few months later I would spend a full half-year there, working its fields and riding its herd of beef cattle. The security situation then was dangerous. Infiltrations were rampant. Our fields were occasionally damaged and our livestock stolen. On Independence Day Eve the community was penetrated. An empty house was partially destroyed by explosives laid by Arab terrorists. The Arabs were violently opposed to a Jewish presence in the Jewish homeland. But I and the permanent residents were Zionist pioneers. We accepted the reality. As pioneers we deserved—and received—public support. That was the fact of our lives. We were settling the land, developing its potential and protecting other communities, those located in the "middle" of the country. We were following in the paths of many thousands before us from both sides of the political spectrum who had asserted a Jewish presence in the Jewish homeland during previous generations. The army cooperated fully with us and our needs. We devoted many hours each month to guard duty. The return trip from Kityat Gat at night was hazardous. Social and cultural activities were rare and our relative isolation was yet another burden. But we were Zionist pioneers and that was something to be proud of. Thirty years later my 15-year-

old son Nedavya watched me attempting to dislodge trespassers out to destroy Jewish agriculture and irrigation equipment while he extinguished blazing fields set afire by enemies of a Jewish presence in the Jewish homeland. He saw many dozens of Arabs storm the area under cultivation. They tore down two fences, lit fires, uprooted olive saplings and were quite interested these days in whether the communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza are to expand. Of course they will. Former government edicts will be invalidated. Projects will be unfrozen. Certain essentials that only government can provide will be made available and private investors and entrepreneurs will be invited to help. Those in power know that without the presence of Jews in Judea, Samaria and Gaza the situation would be worse. broke others. They threw rocks and brandished sticks. Nedavya witnessed, as I did a generation ago and as did others in earlier generations, Arab violence against so-called "settlements." And so the cycle continues. That "settlements" are an obstacle is nothing new in the Zionist lexicon. In 1920 the Jewish "settlement" in Jerusalem was attacked by Arab rioters; a year later the Jewish "settlement" in Jaffa was attacked. Kibbutzim and cities were "settlements." And "settlers" were haredim slaughtered in Hebron and ideological secularists in the Jezreel Valley. Yet there will always be a future to the concept of settling the Land. FOREIGN observers and Jewish opponents to a Jewish presence throughout the Jewish homeland

are quite interested these days in whether the communities of Judea, Samaria and Gaza are to expand. Of course they will. Former government edicts will be invalidated. Projects will be unfrozen. Certain essentials that only government can provide will be made available and private investors and entrepreneurs will be invited to help. They are an obstacle to an independent PLO state, the creation of which would be existentially inimical to Israel. Secondly, Israel cannot continue simply on the basis of a "New Middle East" vision combined with the thrust of academic "post-Zionism." The linking of these two ideals is a destructive force. The return to basics, to the fundamental imperatives of Zionism as exemplified by some 150,000 Judea, Samaria and Gaza residents in over 140 communities is not only inspiring. It is the soul of what this country is. I have full confidence that my son will overcome the scene he witnessed. I do not believe that his psyche was damaged or that the humanist values we instilled in him will be injured. I am not elated that he is replaying elements of the Arab-Jewish conflict. But I have faith that he and his generation will persevere in guarding and taking care of the land. For my son is a Zionist and a vital aspect of Zionism is the physical presence in the Jewish homeland. Without the vistas of our 3,500-year history here, its successes and failures, the exile and destruction as well as the heroic return and reconstruction, we have no future. And we intend there to be no doubt about the future. We in Judea, Samaria and Gaza have settled that. The writer represents the Shilo community in the Binyamin Regional Council.

Peace cannot coexist with settlement

AFTER listening to Binyamin Netanyahu's views on the settlements during their Washington meeting, President Bill Clinton remarked that "the tide of history cannot be turned back." Perhaps so, but as far as settlements are concerned our prime minister seems determined to deter the flow for at least four years. Emerging from the elections with a minister and seven MKs (seven percent of MKs, speaking for some two percent of the population), the settler lobby has never been stronger. Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan speaks of adding "hundreds of thousands of new settlers" in existing and new settlements. Netanyahu, who will concentrate on strengthening existing settlements and building along the bypass roads, sees the close connection between settlement and final borders. The settlers themselves have detailed stage-by-stage plans to increase their population, now about 145,000, to up to half a million in four years. Expansion plans are shared by the hard ideological core of Gush Emunim and the more "quality of life"-oriented settlements. Yehiel Leiter who heads the foreign desk in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, speaks of "the

council's strategic goal of preventing a Palestinian state. The only way to prevent such a state is to ensure that there is no territorial contiguity between major Palestinian population centers" in area C, which constitutes 73 percent of the West Bank. This declaration of purpose lets the cat out of the bag. Of course, "developing and consolidating

The choice is between Jabotinsky's 'iron wall' and peaceful integration in the region

the settlements" and "opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state" are among the guidelines of the Netanyahu government. What peaceful political options does this leave to Yasser Arafat and his people? An editorial in *Ha'aretz* on David Levy's meeting with Arafat notes that if settlement continues, "the inevitable conclusion will be that meetings with Arafat won't prevent additional broad confrontation with the Palestinians and a deep freeze in the political moves in the region." THE LIKUD's political perspectives are very different from those of its predecessor, but in settlement policy, Netanyahu

understandably says he can do no less than Labor, which had purposed to freeze settlement. Under its rule the settler population nevertheless grew by some 50 percent. (Peace Now says 39 percent, the settlers 46 percent.) In his "pillars of peace" speech to the US Congress on July 10, Netanyahu made democracy and human rights a condition for

moral right to preach to others about human rights, after occupying territories of another people for nearly three decades, denying about two million Palestinians all political and civil rights. Netanyahu's new "rules of behavior" for the whole Middle East provide potent ammunition for those who have always claimed that Israel is an alien element in the region. One is almost reminded of that "iron wall" which Ze'ev Jabotinsky proposed in the early 1920s. In our day, it is settlement in the occupied territories which erects the strongest barriers against integration into the region. Our prime minister speaks differently to different audiences, but one has yet to hear that his plans for more settlement have been accepted anywhere. There is no single test of Israel's genuine readiness to advance the peace process, but settlement policy is one of the priority issues. However frequently one pays lip service to peace, the fact is that settlement and peace intrinsically contradict each other. Sooner or later, a choice must be made between the concept of the iron wall and that of peaceful integration. The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal.

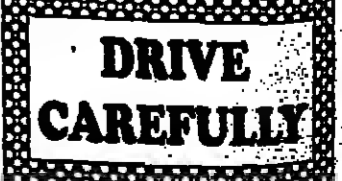
POSTSCRIPTS

CARESSING A white coffin adorned with flowers and a tiny blue airplane, Jessica Dubroff's mother remembered her as a child who couldn't be held back from her passion for flying. "A month ago she said, 'I want to fly until I die,'" Lisa Hathaway said during the funeral in Pescadero, California, for the 7-year-old girl who died trying to become the youngest pilot to fly across America. "She knew how to reach into your soul and stay there. I'm grateful she's been in my life," Hathaway said. Jessica's 9-year-old brother, Joshua, who reportedly planned to fly over the service, was grounded by bad weather and was at the grave site.

Jessica died along with her father and flight instructor when their single-engine plane went down in an icy rain just after takeoff from Cheyenne, Wyoming, during the second leg of the flight. Criticism of the flight mounted after the crash, with many people saying children shouldn't be allowed to fly. Others have wondered whether the dream of flying across the country was Jessica's or her parents'. Mourners were unbowed by the criticism, saying Jessica should serve as an example. "She just lived life to the fullest. She was afraid of nothing," said the Rev. Orril Fluharty. "We're so squelched by fear we don't live life."

AFTER MAD cow disease, sad doll disease is taking its toll. A plague is decimating collections of antique plastic dolls, making them cry brown viscous tears, stink of vinegar and infect other dolls. But British scientists have found the answer—iron deficiency. Research by Bradford University scientists has located the problem in low-grade iron pins that fix dolls' eyes to their plastic casing. The Bradford team diagnosed a chemical chain reaction between metal and plastic that caused thick brown fluids to leak from joints and eyeballs. The dolls deteriorate rapidly. "We could see that their heads

were becoming misshapen, and brown tears were trickling out of their eyeballs," said scientist Howell Edwards. "Worse still, they found the disease was infectious, in museums and private collections. Once one doll contracts the disease it releases acetic acid or vinegar vapors which penetrate nearby dolls, dissolving iron fittings with the same toxic result. "If just one doll has it, it can affect a whole cabinet," said Edwards.



Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سواء من الاصل"

When a leader debates history who wins?

LIKE a college debater who can argue both sides of an issue equally well, Binyamin Netanyahu has always seemed a clever chap who can make a convincing argument without being overly burdened by actual convictions.

As persuasive as his points may seem the moment he makes them, there is often a disturbing sense that they are pods of windblown rhetoric resting on some arbitrary premise.

As he begins to come to grips with real life in his new job we are being afforded the interesting prospect of watching how Netanyahu handles himself against a debating partner whom he has no chance of besting - history itself.

History is a merciless debater. It may look like a pushover for awhile as it quietly forms its response to the arguments on the table, but when it rouses itself, plodding but imperturbable, it inevitably sweeps all before it.

Netanyahu got in first locks by informing the world in his confident tone that he can bring peace with the Arabs while rejecting the most basic Arab demands out of hand. There will be no retreat from the Golan, no Palestinian state, no Palestinian role in Jerusalem, no commitment to the land-for-peace formula, no curb on Israeli settlement expansion.

He even hinted that future Israeli concessions would depend on the Arabs becoming democrats - a fatuous piece of "cleverness" he detached himself from after second thoughts. At the same time he pointedly ignored the Arab leader who is by far his most important partner in the peace process - the only one, as it happens, democratically elected, Yasser Arafat.

In his speech to Congress, Netanyahu dangled before the Arabs nothing but platitudes, yet assured his listeners that "peace with security" would shortly descend on the Middle East. It was a breathtaking opener.

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

History, silenced for the moment, sat back in its corner to study the man. Was this brash young politician serious, or was he just being outrageous as an opening debating ploy?

If the latter, then Netanyahu may be doing alright so far. He has gained the Arabs' attention and made them realize that Israeli concessions, which they have

what we would do if we were in their place - make life hell for the other side. We would probably do it more efficiently, but the Palestinians have shown they are no slouches in this regard.

If Netanyahu believes that Arab wishes can simply be ignored, or that they will perhaps be forgotten if he stalls long enough he will reunite the Arab countries against us, derail the peace process and the Israeli economy, and lead us into dark valleys where we have not yet been.

THE PALESTINIANS will have their state in the end and this will provide Israel with more stability, security and prosperity than continued occupation of the territories possibly could.

Wisdom means giving the Arabs something to lose, not giving them a standing grievance. Wisdom means dealing with the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, not as implacable enemies to be outwitted or brow-beaten but as potential partners with whom trust must be cultivated.

The options are clear enough for a child to see. But it isn't always certain that politicians, dazzled by their own rhetoric, can see as clearly as children.

The fact that Netanyahu has lost his "what, me worry?" grin since assuming office and that his hitherto confident demeanor has given way to a generally worried look is an encouraging sign that he may be coming to recognize that cleverness is no substitute for wisdom.

It is not impossible that he will in the end win the great debate with history by blatantly stealing its arguments and letting it be known that they were his all along.

That would be a piece of cleverness even history would forgive him for.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Netanyahu might - if he comes to realize that cleverness is no substitute for wisdom

become accustomed to over the past three years, are not something to be taken lightly. Reciprocity, as he put it, will be demanded.

If that is his game, it is a legitimate one, but it will demand of Netanyahu the wisdom to ensure that the peace process does not founder on it.

Wisdom is an attribute Netanyahu has yet to display - his attempt to impose his "First Family" shlick on the public is but the most recent example - but the possibility that it will come with the job cannot be denied him.

If, however, Netanyahu really believed the inanities he expressed in Washington to stormy applause he is in deep trouble, and so are the rest of us standing willy-nilly on his side of the debating floor. History, which takes many guises, will not let such a clunker pass lightly.

If Netanyahu attempts to outsmart the Palestinians and sell them snake oil instead of offering them a dignified settlement he will provoke them into doing just

Righteous work of reform

THE work of the righteous is off performed by others," goes the rabbinical adage. Let me add that it is often performed by the downright unrighteous.

The revolt this week by the Knesset House Committee, which foiled Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's attempt to railroad the "Norwegian law" through the Knesset, is good news.

The opponents were headed by that well-known Shas zaddik Raphael Pinhasi, who was voting his party's pique at Netanyahu, and by other miffed MKs. The earlier revolt in the Likud Knesset faction, which foiled Netanyahu's clumsy attempt to foist his own choice for Speaker on an embittered faction, was also motivated by raging resentments in the faction, which Netanyahu had sold down the river in his ruthless drive for his own election.

We are still in the early stages of a post-mortem debate on whether or not the new law for the direct election of the prime minister has proven itself. My opinion is that it certainly has, if the criterion is the major purpose behind the change from the previous system.

The new legislation was adopted over four years ago following a dangerous degeneration of the political arena expressed in Shimon Peres's 1990 dirty tricks cabal, which attempted to buy renegade MKs from the Likud and the religious parties to back his bid to replace the Shamir unity government.

The acting out of the entire sorry plot in full media and public view brought on a crisis of confidence in the very legitimacy of the political system.

The main purpose of the new system was to restore that legitimacy by ensuring that the choice of prime minister would not be left to political horse-trading, but to the choice of the people.

To my mind the new legislation has passed its first test of restoring such legitimacy in a sorely divided polity. Not only is there no doubt that a slight, but clear majority preferred Netanyahu to Peres, it is also clear that a much larger majority voted for parties who backed his approach to the major issue of the day.

THE NEW legislation didn't turn the sweaty arena of party politics into a bed of roses, but that was something it was never intended to do. Nor was its purpose the enthroning of a democratically elected dictator who would run roughshod over a finely-tuned system of checks and balances.

The advent of a directly elected prime minister who derives his enhanced powers from a height-

YOSEF GOELL

ened sense of public legitimacy, however, requires the urgent forging of a stronger, more independent-minded Knesset.

Some of the backers of the Norwegian law, which would have cabinet ministers resign provisionally from the Knesset to make way for those next in line on their respective faction lists, argue that it would strengthen the Knesset. Maybe so and maybe no. But judging by the identity of those making the argument, it's the height of hypocrisy.

Neither Netanyahu nor his immediate cohorts have given any evidence that they care a fig for

The advent of a directly elected premier requires a stronger, more independent-minded Knesset

the Knesset. In the present case, their interest is only too obviously ensuring the permanent presence of a coalition majority as insurance against surprise votes, and rewarding disappointed and enraged candidates, especially among the decimated Likud faction, who didn't make it into the Knesset.

Continuing reform of the system is both essential and urgent, but it must not be left to such crude attempts from the Prime Minister's Office, whose main purpose isn't forging a healthy balance between executive and legislature, but furthering narrow and fleeting party and personal interests.

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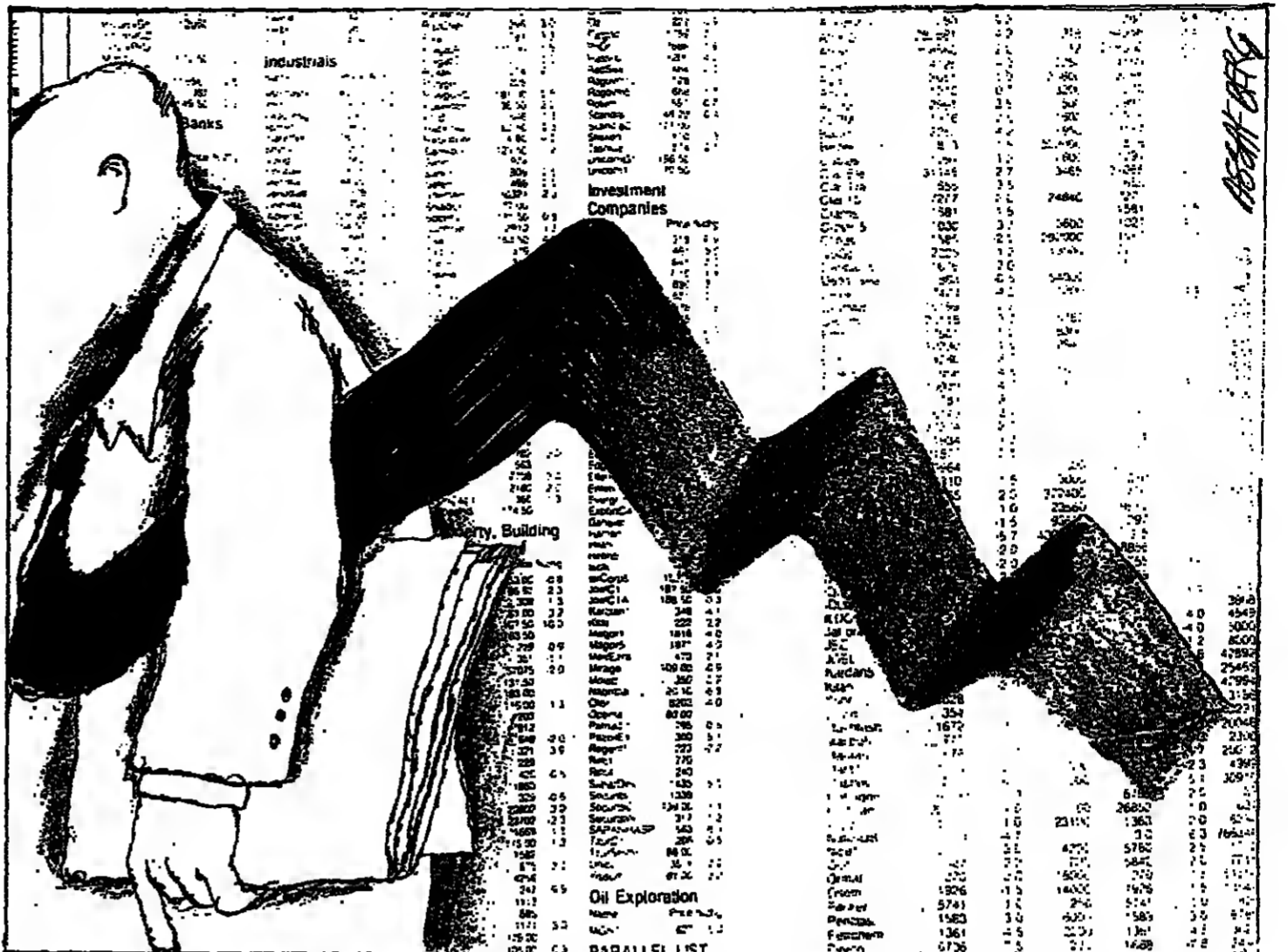
It is important that the initiative for continuing constitutional reform come from within the Knesset and not from the government. It would also be eminently desirable that the reform be a bipartisan effort.

The Knesset is now adjourning for its recess. Hopefully, it will be exploited to forge a bloc of public-spirited coalition and opposition MKs who will take charge of continuing the reform process. The direct election law was guided through the Knesset by just such a bipartisan coalition, consisting of Labor's David Liba'i, the Likud's Uriel Lynn, Tsomet's Yoash Tsiddon, and Meretz's Amnon Rubinstein.

Liba'i and Rubinstein continue in the present Knesset. Perhaps they could become the nucleus of a new constitutional reform caucus, and widen its membership in the direction of such Likud MKs as Uzi Landau, Moshe Zandberg, and Shivan Shalom.

The division between coalition and opposition is an essential part of our system. Equally important is emphasizing the differences between the Knesset and the government, and proceeding with a reform to strengthen the Knesset vis-a-vis the directly-elected prime minister.

The writer comments on public affairs.



And they screamed 'Gevalt!'

AMOTZ ASA-EL

ACCORDING to the great American economic historian John Kenneth Galbraith, the Wall Street crash made 1929 go down in history as memorably as such turning points as 1492, 1776 or 1914.

That mother of all financial traumas was on some Israeli minds recently as tabloids, business circles and politicians screamed *gevalt* amid plunging bond and share indexes and mounting attacks on the government's monetary, fiscal, structural and diplomatic policies. Yet the analogies are unfounded and the assaults - which stem from ignorance, malice, or both - can do nothing but shoot their perpetrators in the foot, and the economy in the head.

Israel's Great Crash took place back in 1983, after hyperinflation had turned practically every household into a stock-market speculator, gobbling shares not only as its chief channel for medium- and short-term savings, but even as an alternative for rapidly depreciating checking accounts.

When that market crashed, a depositor's entire financial spine was threatened, so much so that the government was compelled to nationalize the major banks, and launch - albeit two expensive years later - a comprehensive austerity plan.

The current crisis, by contrast, so far involves a massive flight - not from the stock market (which was abandoned by most Israelis in 1994) but from Israel's most popular long-term savings instrument, the provident funds - to shorter-term alternatives. In other words, the small depositor's money has not evaporated, merely moved from one parking lot to another.

But it's not that simple, since the abandoned funds consist mainly of government bonds, and a massive dumping of these would ordinarily loom as a collective statement of inflationary expectations on the part of a public which does not believe a long-term fixed income can catch up with rising consumer prices. Such a public might well run out on a shopping spree with some of its newly available cash, which would indeed accelerate inflation, thus inadvertently fulfilling the prophecy embedded in the withdrawals in the first place.

However, the long-term bonds in

which the public has invested are index linked, and as such should be seen as inflation-proof. In other words, if this flight is rational then it should be attributed to the funds' involvement in the truly sick part of Israel's financial markets, namely the stock exchange, where provident funds can invest a 10th of a saver's deposits.

But the stampede on short-term savings plans is not new. Though it is accelerating, it began a good two-and-a-half years ago, a period during which some NIS 10 billion was withdrawn from the provident funds, after these had already been collectively worth some NIS 37b. in late 1993.

Chronologically then, the watershed in the public's attitude toward long-term investment was the previous government's negligent 20 percent salary hikes for - and 17% expansion of - the public sector, at

guided economic navigation.

Similarly baseless are the attempts to link the markets' behavior to the fate of the peace process. For one thing, the markets have been a shambles since early 1994, stubbornly refusing to be boosted by the Oslo accords.

Moreover, talk of foreign investors ostensibly reconsidering their plans here has yet to be supported with one specific instance of a particular investment plan's cancellation. Meanwhile, Nestle, the world's largest food producer, completed its effective takeover of Osem this week for a hefty \$140m.

Yet industrialists like Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon choose to inflame hysteria with warnings that the government's more cautious peace policies will "halt" foreign investment.

Equally unfair is the business community's assault on the central

current short-term rate, 17%, is about 3% higher than current annual inflation. So what's the fuss about?

One never hears, say, the presidents of Ford or IBM try to set Fed Governor Alan Greenspan's agenda, or tell the White House how to deal with Bosnia. Here too, businessmen should leave macroeconomics in the hands of those legally elected and appointed to deal with it. If they don't like it they can run for office rather than lobby for cheap money with quasi-economic arguments, which might ultimately be taken seriously abroad and inflict real harm on the economy.

The public is shunning the stock market not because of the state of the peace process or the level of interest rates, but because of scandals like those involving Bank Hapoalim's share-manipulator Elon Tzabari, Clal Investments' embezzler Arye Goldin, and insurer La Nationale's allegedly hollow life-insurance policies. And the bond market is teetering because the public has yet to see proof that this government can effectively undo its predecessor's pampering of the public sector.

However, the economically vital vehicle once offered by Tel Aviv's ability to raise capital for local business has not vanished, but simply relocated on Wall Street's Nasdaq exchange, where this year alone Israeli companies have already raised more than \$600m. And the bond market, which in itself may be troubled, neither threatens the government's ability to raise money, nor the safety of Mr. Israel's bank deposits.

So let's keep it all in proportion: in comparison with 1929, and even 1983, meeting the challenge of 1996 should be a piece of cake.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

It takes a lot of nerve for people like Peres and Shohat to blame the new government for the economic crisis

a time when private-sector pay actually lost 6.5% of its real value. It was that fiscal orgy, coupled with an extravagant commitment to finance a guaranteed 4.4% real annual yield for pension plans over the next 80 years that unleashed local demand and prodded the government to borrow abroad more than it could earn at home. That is how the balance of payments shifted from a surplus of \$200 million in 1992 to a deficit of well over \$4b. today.

IT TAKES a lot of nerve, therefore, for people like Shimon Peres and Avraham Shohat to attribute the current crisis to the new government's actions and inactions. If anything, it is the culmination of their, and Yitzhak Rabin's, mis-

bank's tight-money policy, which is the most reasonable way to respond to the economy's evident inflationary pressures, for as long as planned budget cuts and structural reforms have not actually been implemented.

To suggest that interest rates are the financial markets' foremost problem is absurd. Wall Street's current bull market commenced during a series of interest-rate hikes in 1994-'95, which doubled the price of credit from 3% to 6%.

Only then, with a 3% margin between inflation and the price of credit, did that economy stabilize and allow the Federal Reserve to gradually reduce rates to their current 5.25%.

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Tutsi-led military overthrows government

THE Tutsi-led army overthrew Burundi's government yesterday and named a new leader to replace the ousted Hutu president of this central African nation already ravaged by ethnic bloodshed.

Soldiers set up roadblocks in the capital and cleared people from the streets as the army sealed Burundi's borders and imposed a curfew from 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Civil war between Tutsis and Hutus has ripped Burundi apart for the past three years, killing more than 150,000 people. Hutus make up 85 percent of the population of six million and Tutsis make up 14 percent.

News of the coup triggered fears of an ethnic genocide like the one that devastated neighboring Rwanda, where half a million people, mostly Tutsis, were slaughtered by Hutu troops in 1994.

The army named a former Tutsi military ruler, Pierre Buyoya, as Burundi's new president, said military spokesman Longin Minani.

"The politicians have failed to solve the problems, and we have decided the country cannot continue like this," Minani said. "Buyoya is more experienced, he is democratic and most people will respect him."

US Embassy spokeswoman Judith Kaula said President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, leader of the coalition government overthrown in the coup, had not resigned. She said he remained at the US ambassador's residence, where he fled Tuesday night, and was meeting

STEFAN LOVGREN
BUJUMBURA, Burundi

there with advisers. "This is not the worst-case scenario because it's not your classic bloody coup in the middle of the night," she said.

At least eight other Hutus, including the foreign minister and two leading lawmakers, sought refuge yesterday in the German ambassador's residence.

Tutsi paratroopers surrounded government buildings in the capital late Tuesday, forcing Ntibunganya (pronounced En-tee-bahn-toon-gan-yah) to flee the palace.

Buyoya, who overthrew Jean-Baptiste Bagaza in a 1987 coup, paved the way for Burundi's first free elections. He was defeated in June 1993 by Melchior Ndadaye, who became the nation's first Hutu president.

Ndadaye was killed three months later by Tutsi soldiers, setting off the ethnic violence. In Bujumbura, a radio broadcast at noon told people to return home. By 2:30 p.m., city streets were empty and the road between the capital and the airport was blocked.

On Radio Burundi, Defense Minister Lt. Col. Firmin Sinzoyiheba said all political activities had been suspended.

On Wednesday, a Tutsi-dominated political party that is a junior partner in Burundi's coalition government called for Ntibunganya's

ouster, accusing him of treason. "The presidency of Sylvestre Ntibunganya is a total failure," said Charles Mukasi, president of the UPRONA party. "Instead of being the president of the country, he is the head of the Hutu ethnic group."

In Ethiopia, the Organization of Africa Unity called on member states and the international community to prepare to isolate any government that would result from the overthrow of Burundi's government.

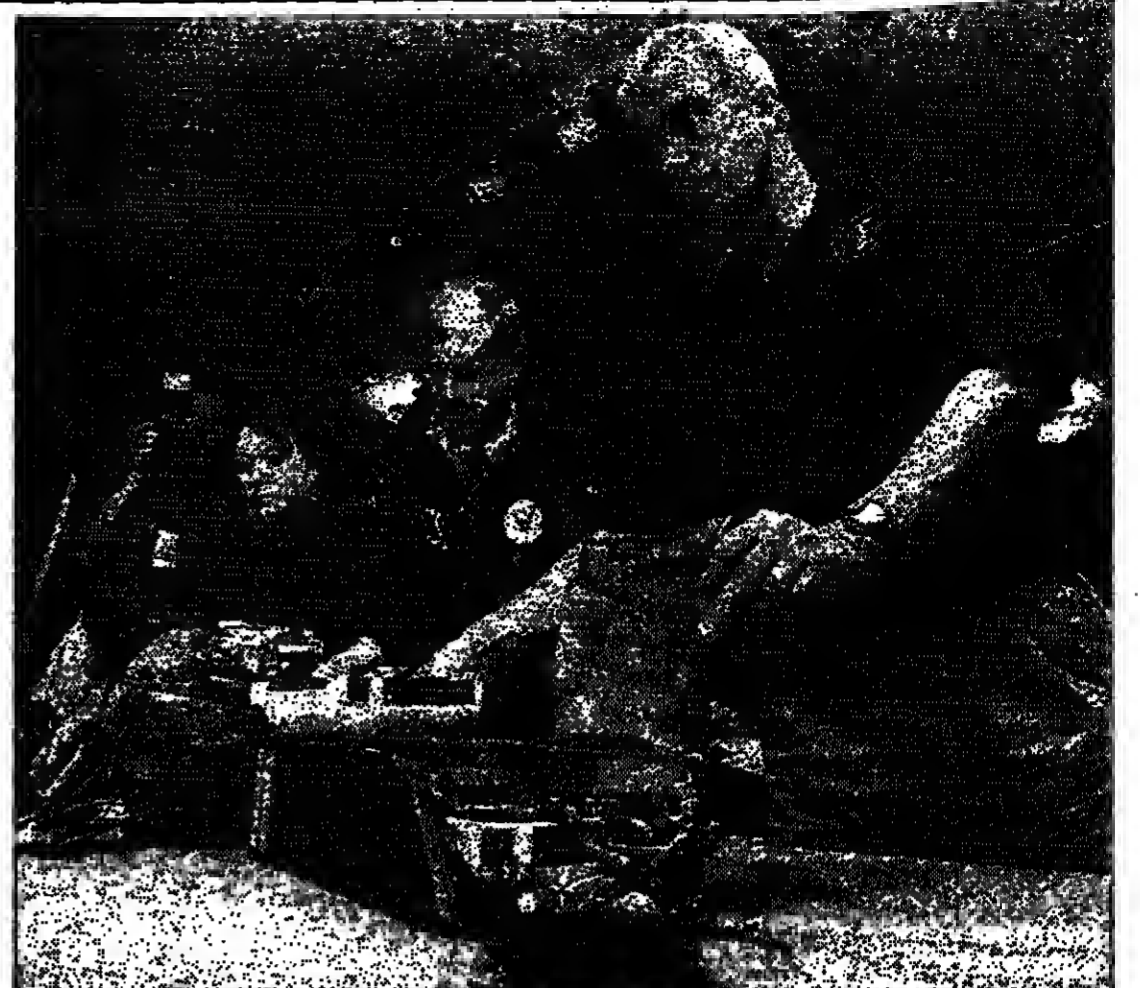
The UN Security Council said Wednesday its 15 members "strongly condemn any attempt to overthrow the present legitimate government by force."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the United States "will not, under any circumstances, tolerate a government installed by force or intimidation in Burundi."

UN officials already are working on two contingency plans - one to provide aid and a more aggressive mission that could forcefully intervene if the government collapsed, said Kofi Annan, head of UN peacekeeping.

"We have to move very quickly before everything blows up in our faces," Annan said. "History will judge us rather severely for Rwanda and I don't think we can repeat that experience in Burundi."

Burundi lies on the northeast side of Lake Tanganyika and is bordered by Tanzania, Rwanda and Zaire. (AP)



Julie Beal, Bernard Loeb (center) and Vernon Ellingstad of the National Transportation Safety Board display the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder recovered yesterday from the TWA plane that crashed off Long Island last week. (AP)

FAA: Our radar could not have picked up a missile

WASHINGTON - The Federal Aviation Administration on Wednesday disputed an assertion by Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon that FAA radar probably could have picked up a missile had there been one.

"The FAA's top radar experts have confirmed that our radar would not have picked up a target with the dimensions and speed described to us that a missile would operate," said FAA spokeswoman Druclilla Andersen.

Officials previously have said that radar tapes from that night show no sign of a missile, though some eyewitnesses have suggested they saw something streaking

toward the doomed aircraft.

The FBI and CIA are also investigating an unspecified number of claims from groups and individuals claiming responsibility for the crash. There is no evidence that any of the claims is correct, but law enforcement authorities said several could not be dismissed.

Two communications from separate groups opposing the stationing of US troops in Saudi Arabia are under active investigation, according to senior law enforcement and diplomatic sources.

"They are credible, but we don't have enough evidence that supports their credibility," said a law enforcement official. A State

Department source said, "We are taking all these claims seriously and referring any we get to the FBI. But you have to remember that when something like this happens, we always get people calling in claiming credit."

In addition, the US Embassy in Copenhagen and the consulate in Marseille, France, have received telephone calls from two individuals claiming credit for what they called an attack. The individuals, who did not identify themselves, did not name any group in connection with their claims, and officials said neither claim was considered particularly credible.

(The Washington Post)

Rebels deny responsibility for bomb attack that killed 63

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Tamil separatist rebels have denied responsibility for a bomb attack on a commuter train near the capital that killed 63 people and wounded more than 350.

The attack could be the work of "interested parties within the ruling establishment" who want to raise hysteria to gain support for a military crackdown on the rebels, said a statement faxed yesterday from the guerrillas' London office.

The government blamed the guerrillas for the attack, which came one week after rebels overran a major military base in northern Sri Lanka.

Two parcel bombs ripped through the train Wednesday as it pulled out of the station at Dethiwala, a middle-class suburb 10 kilometers south of Colombo. The train was packed with commuters returning home from work in the capital.

Wednesday's train attack bore the hallmarks of the rebel Tamil Tigers, who marked the 13th anniversary this week of the beginning of their campaign for an independent homeland for the Tamil minority in this predominantly Sinhalese country.

Two suspects were arrested at the train station within minutes of the explosions. Both were Tamils who did not have identity papers, police said, but no further information was released.

Police quoted eyewitnesses as saying two other people had disembarked at an earlier station.

Three more inmates die in Turkish hunger strike

ANKARA (Reuters) - Three leftist inmates died yesterday in a two-month-old prison hunger strike, raising the number of those who have died to six and turning the international spotlight on Turkey's human rights record.

The six were part of a group of more than 300 leftist hunger strikers in around 30 jails who were demanding the closure of Eskisehir prison - dubbed The Coffin by inmates - and protesting against general prison conditions.

In Brussels, socialist members of the European Parliament threatened to block EU funds for Turkey in budget talks later this year.

"My group is looking at our budgetary powers with a view to blocking any money for Turkey," Pauline Green, the socialist leader in the parliament, said in a statement.

"What is becoming clear is that the Turkish government have used the institutions of the European

Union to gain what they want and have given nothing of what they promised in return."

The European Parliament last year passed an EU customs union with Turkey after amendments were added that focused on human rights.

France on Tuesday called on Turkey to improve jail conditions in response to the hunger strike. Investigators in Germany have linked recent arson attacks against Turkish-owned targets there to sympathizers with the striking leftists.

Human rights workers told Reuters that Mujdat Yanat, 37, died in Turkey's western Aydin prison, where he was serving an 18-year sentence for armed leftist activities.

Earlier, inmate Ali Ayata died in Bursa jail, and Huseyin Demircioglu starved himself to death in Ankara Central Prison, according to lawyers and rights activists. They were held in con-

nection with membership of separate urban guerrilla groups.

Three other hunger strikers died earlier this week.

"My husband, Huseyin Demircioglu, is dead like many other revolutionaries and he didn't shy from paying with his life. I am proud to be the wife of a martyr," angry widow Nalan Demircioglu told reporters outside the Ankara prison.

"They will pay for this. If they think we will cry and fall apart they are wrong. We will win," she said.

The prisoners and their lawyers charge prison officials with dispersing leftist inmates across the country, depriving them of family visits and legal counsel.

Dozens of hunger strikers were reported by lawyers to be in a critical condition. So far there has been little discussion of force feeding the inmates - in part out of fear of sparking widespread prison unrest.

UN to run out of money as US fails to pay dues

JOHN GOSHKO
UNITED NATIONS

general for management, said that earlier optimism about a slight easing of the UN's deep financial crisis had been dashed by a new shortfall in the money it had hoped to get from Washington. UN officials had been counting on the US payment to keep ready cash available for the organization's regular operating budget at least until sometime this fall.

The United States is the UN's biggest debtor, with mial arrearages of about \$1.3 billion for its share of the regular budget and peacekeeping assessments.

In April, Congress appropriated \$304 million to cover the unpaid portion of the US assessment for the UN's 1995 regular budget, and Connor announced at the time that the United States had promised to deliver \$165 million by the end of

this month. Instead, he said Wednesday, the United States has paid only \$85 million.

In addition, Connor noted, payment of the remaining \$80 million is dependent on Secretary of State Warren Christopher certifying to Congress that the United Nations is not exceeding the \$2.6 billion no-growth budget that it adopted at US insistence. Because of uncertainty about when the certification might be made and the money turned loose, Connor said, the world body will end the year much more deeply in the red than he had estimated previously.

In April, Connor had said that a US payment of \$165 million would reduce the UN's 1996 regular budget deficit to \$200 million, the same as in 1995. Wednesday he said the 1996 shortfall will be at least \$287 million. (The Washington Post)

Man run over after being struck by lightning

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) - A Namibian man was struck and killed by a car just minutes after he was stunned by a bolt of lightning that knocked him down in a street.

The Namibian newspaper said yesterday that David Mushikele, 26, died instantly when hit by the vehicle, which then sped away.

Two other men walking on the Windhoek street with Mushikele also were hit by the lightning early Wednesday but managed to get out of the road before being hit by the car. Both men were taken to a hospital. Police are trying to trace the hit-and-run driver, the newspaper said.

To mark the second *yahzeit* of the passing of our dear husband, revered father, grandfather and great-grandfather
Rabbi Dr. MENACHEM LEWITTES 71
We will meet at the Sanhedria Cemetery on Wednesday, July 31, at 9:30 a.m.
The family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother
ILSE AKZIN
(widow of Prof. Benjamin Akzin 71)
The funeral will take place today, Friday, July 26, 1996 (10 Av 5756), leaving at 12:30 p.m. from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor for the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery.
Mourning by:
Michael, Hilary, Aaron and Abigail Akzin
Shoshana, Oren, Anat and Amr Zietman
Shiva at the Zietman residence,
303 Rehov Shlomo Ben Yosef, Apt. 5, East Talpit.

We mourn the death of
ILSE AKZIN
A beloved friend and bridge partner.
Harriet and Harvey Kasow

The consecration of the tombstone of
RACHEL (Ray) JACKSON 71
will be on Sunday, August 4, 1996 (16 Av 5756) at 5:00 p.m., in the cemetery of Kibbutz Sa'ad.
Susan Yashiyahu
David, Edward and Martin Jackson

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NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, July 26 1996

7

Kahalani's new model police force

The internal security minister says our law-enforcement officers should be kinder and gentler, even when dealing with demonstrations, **Bill Hutman reports**



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani: Only if there is no other choice will water cannons and horses be used. (David Rubinger)

THE proverbial tough but caring brother is not an image usually associated with the country's policemen, especially in this period of weekly violent confrontations with haredim over Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan.

Such confrontations are nothing new. Under the previous government, there were frequent incidents between protesters and policemen. Each side blamed the other for the violence, and the animosity only grew.

Now Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani wants to leave the past behind when it comes to the police's relations with the public, and this week he took the first step toward doing so.

"A policeman must be a big brother to the public," Kahalani said in an interview. Earlier he had announced strict limitations on the use of mounted policemen and water cannons to break up demonstrations.

"What is a big brother? He is someone who knows how to pat you on the back, to give a little money when it's needed. He knows when to help, and when to be mad," Kahalani said. "The policeman must be like a big brother. The public should feel good when he is around."

A helmeted policeman sitting atop a large horse with a wooden club in his hand doesn't make the public feel good, according to Kahalani. Neither does a policeman sitting inside a large, armored water cannon, he said. So both are now to be out of sight during demonstrations.

"A policeman must look a person directly in the eye," Kahalani said, describing the new orders given out to police brass around the country when dealing with demonstrations.

"The water cannons and horses will be available, but they will be far away, ... something like a half a kilometer from the demonstration. Only if there is no other choice will they be used. We don't have to always be crossing the line and finding ourselves in a situation where we are in physical conflict."

The 52-year-old minister called the policy, "our new line of restraint. It is going to be our policy not just at Rehov Bar-Ilan, but everywhere. Tomorrow there could be a protest in Acre, or the day after tomorrow of the Women in Green, and these are the rules that we are

going to abide by." Police brass generally scoffed at Kahalani's new instructions. One senior officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the new guidelines would make little difference on the ground. The water cannons and horses would be kept

away from the scene at the start of a demonstration, and brought in the minute they were needed, as has always been done, according to the officer.

The minister had promised to publicize broad new guidelines for police handling of demonstrations this week. But he only addressed the

matter of water cannons and mounted police. Kahalani denied having backed down from his original plans for a "new line of restraint" in the nation's police force, as was rumored among police brass who believed the new minister was off the mark in blaming police, rather than protesters, for violent incidents.

The major criticism of Kahalani came from the Jerusalem police. Kahalani had rapped the city's police force, and its chief, Cmdr. Arye Amit, for "breaking heads" during last Saturday's haredi rioting at Rehov Bar-Ilan.

"The newspaper headlines that I didn't give Amit my backing are unfounded.... But at the same time, anyone who doesn't follow my policy won't be around for long. I don't want to play games," Kahalani said.

"No one will teach me about comradeship among fighters, or show me someone who has commanded more units than me, and tell me how to show backing for his fighters."

He also said, "My goal is to turn the policeman into a more humane creature. And that doesn't mean weak. Someone who is humane is not weak."

Kahalani DOESN'T expect that his new policy on demonstrations will cause a shake-up in police brass, or that Amit will be replaced.

The minister attributed much of the noise about his criticism of the handling of demonstrations to internal police politics. He said that the practice of officers vying for promotion by lambasting rivals in the press won't work. The issue of the police's behavior during demonstrations, is too serious for discussion to be deteriorate into name-calling and accusations, he said.

"I have always sought positions in which I can influence what happens in this country, and that is what I plan to do now," said the soft-spoken Kahalani who, unlike many politicians, tends to eschew demagoguery.

Other issues he wants to tackle include the traffic police's desperate need of improvements, and the separation line between Israel and the Palestinians, for which the police are to be largely responsible. This is currently little more than a plan waiting to be put into place. And the government's policy on Palestinian activity in Jerusalem needs to be firmed up.

His major responsibility, however, is ensuring internal security, as his job title indicates. Most security experts are painting a dismal and frightening picture of what awaits the country in terms of the threats of the renewal of terror attacks.

"Even if there is real peace between us and the Palestinians, there will still be Hamas and Islamic Jihad, who also want Jaffa and Ramle," Kahalani said. "Even if there is peace, I think that we will still have problems with those two extremist groups."

But what is of even greater concern, to Kahalani is that even supporters of the peace process are likely to turn on Israel: "When we come to discuss the final stage [of the Oslo accords] and the Palestinians realize that they won't get what they want on Jerusalem; that we don't exactly agree to the right of return of millions of Palestinians; that their demands for water won't be met; and that we won't give up Ariel - we can expect problems."

In the meantime, however, the minister's attention is on Rehov Bar-Ilan, and he will be watching closely this weekend to see how his new policy of restraint toward demonstrators is implemented.

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JTURE noices

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The tricky business of leaving Lebanon

It has been said about war that it's easy to know how to enter, but not how to exit.

Fourteen years after the 1982 Lebanon war, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is finding out how complicated it is to leave Lebanon.

Few would have predicted that Israel would find itself in a position where it has to virtually plead with Syria, which dominates the country, to let it leave Arab territory.

While this week's meeting between Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat underscores the importance of maintaining ties with the Palestinians, the notion of Lebanon First is in fact the first exploratory diplomatic initiative of the Netanyahu government, and is the way that Israel seeks to engage the Syrian government.

This is also the focus of the government's talks this week with US Special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross, who also spent six hours with President Hafiz Assad this week. Netanyahu said on his recent visit to Washington that Lebanon was the right place to begin with Syria, saying Damascus should prove itself by quieting Hizbullah. The reason why the premier wants to reach an agreement with Syria in Lebanon is because it does not see a point of convergence on the Golan, and Labor's approach of doing a package peace deal for both the Golan and southern Lebanon is not on the cards.

The prime minister has said privately that he does not believe a peace treaty is possible with Syria unless Israel fully yields the Golan, but this is a price that he is not willing to pay due to the resultant security risks.

Yet, Netanyahu is not seeking a war option with Syria, a move which could spark a potential regional conflagration. At the same time, he has made clear that

The Netanyahu government wrestles with the Syria enigma, writes David Makovsky

should Damascus heat up Hizbullah, Israel is willing to go after Syrian targets in Lebanon just as it went after a Syrian base in retaliation for the attack by the Damascus-based Abu Musa group recently. It should be noted that southern Lebanon is quieter than usual now but analysts say this could be due to Hizbullah's preoccupation with Lebanese elections next month.

IT SEEMS like the strategy towards Syria regarding the Golan could be summed up as No Peace, No War. But will the last part of this strategy, when it comes to Lebanon, be No Exit?

Israel harbors no territorial designs over Lebanon, and only installed a buffer zone in southern Lebanon in 1985 for security purposes. However, instead of the security zone serving as a buffer against attacks, it has become a rallying call for Hizbullah attacks under the banner of ending Israeli occupation of the country.

Even leading doves such as Meretz MK Yossi Sarid back military officials who say Israel cannot unilaterally leave Lebanon because there is no guarantee that Hizbullah would not take up positions along Israel's border and resume fire at northern Israel.

Yitzhak Rabin used to say that Israel is ready to pull back from southern Lebanon after the Lebanese Army deploys southward and demonstrates over a six-month period that it can successfully disarm Hizbullah. The Lebanese Army wanted to do so after the 1993 Operation Accountability, but the real master of Lebanon - Syria -

demurred. If one wants an agreement in Lebanon, those baseline terms can be struck only with Damascus.

Making its Syria strategy dependent upon what Damascus does with Lebanon explains Netanyahu's little-noticed change of policy in the last few weeks.

In an interview during the election campaign, he called upon the international community to impose sanctions on Syria like those imposed on Iraq and Libya, a notion which has been referred to as "triple containment." Some even thought he would call for sanctions during his trip to the US.

But apparently after prodding by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Netanyahu has come around to believe that he needs Syria if he wants to get out of Lebanon, and therefore all the talk about containment has disappeared.

Netanyahu even said he does not have a "containment policy." During his trip to the US, he sought to ward off a Republican congressman who wanted to quietly raise the possibility of putting forward tough new anti-Syrian legislation. Engaging Syria also has the benefit of ensuring that Israel can freely pursue talks with other Arabs and there is less pressure on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks.

The key question remains whether Syria would find a Lebanon First approach to be consistent with its interests. Doubtlessly, Lebanon First may not be to Syria's liking.

First, what Syria does not like to publicize is that it enjoys having the IDF in southern Lebanon because the more it bleeds there, the more it demonstrates that Damascus has found Israel's Achilles heel on how to pressure Israel in the Golan talks.

Second, the extension of the Lebanese Army in the south could spell the weakening of Syria's grip on the country. Third, by agreeing to Israel's security terms, Syria will be taking on Hizbullah and its patron, Damascus's ally Iran, but without any guarantee that Israel will yield the Golan Heights.

Yet, US President Bill Clinton seems curious to explore the Lebanon First approach and if handled correctly, Netanyahu can apparently gain support from several Arab countries who are not enamored with Syria, especially if the approach is packaged as a method to get Israel to leave Arab soil.

However, the US may be capable of impacting upon Syria's response by putting forward a set of disincentives if Damascus does not comply, and incentives should it do so.

Putting forward sticks and not just carrots is something the Clinton administration has not done because it is concerned it could cause Syria to join an axis of other rogue states.

However, this could change. The mood in the US about Syria has soured after 20-odd trips by Christopher to Syria without any breakthrough and especially after Assad refused to see Christopher during a trip to Damascus in April.

While the preference would be to use gentle persuasion, some believe Damascus must be informed that if it does not play a constructive role, it may be asked to pay the price. "Syria has been treated in the past by the US and Israel like a regional superpower, when in fact it is vulnerable," said one non-Israeli source who favors a new approach.

In the disincentive column, Syria would seem to have some economic vulnerabilities. Syria's economy is in trouble. With a GDP of \$10.5 billion, its economy is about an eighth the size of Israel's, and it dropped in real terms by 3.7 percent during 1994.

Moreover, it is saddled with a debt greater than the size of the whole economy at \$15-20 billion. And Syria is not servicing most of the debt which it owes now to Russia and Europe.

There could be pressure upon foreign investors not to maintain the Syrian oil fields, just as the US is doing with Iran. According to the US Department of Energy, Syria has plateaued at 600,000 barrels per day, providing it in 1994 with \$1.8b. in revenue. Moreover, Syria's oil output represents no less than 70% of its total export revenues for which it receives hard currency. (This seems to be \$1b. less in export revenues than it was earning two years earlier.)

There is also the US anti-terrorism bill signed into law last April which prohibits financial transactions with countries called "terrorist," states, a law which could apply to Damascus. Syria is on the State Department Terrorism List.

Yet, as worded, the provision could bar all the \$223 million of US exports to Syria, including oil equipment, textiles and grain. Even if one favored the use of sticks if Syria does not comply, there may be an equal need to consider carrots. Some believe this will involve formalization of Syria's control over Lebanon.

Yet, others believe that Syria will insist upon the one carrot that Netanyahu won't provide: exit from the Golan.



Iran tries to buy respectability with MIA exchange

The return of Ron Arad might hinge on whether Teheran wants a rapprochement with the West, Steve Rodan writes

SHABTAI Shavit didn't return from Ben-Gurion Airport to attend the news conference that announced the return of the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh. The former Mossad chief preferred it that way.

For Shavit, who had been intimately involved in the negotiations for the return of the bodies of the two IDF soldiers, the deal promises little in the way of future such releases.

"I wouldn't sow illusions on this matter," Shavit says. "I relate to this as an achievement in and of itself."

The politicians from Israel and Germany might be radiating optimism, but the prisoner-and-body exchange with Hizbullah leaves intelligence analysts and defense officials with little more than a bad taste in their mouths. As many of them see it, Israel failed to use the negotiations to win the release of captured Israeli Air Force navigator Ron Arad, or receive evidence that he is alive.

After nearly 18 months of intermittent efforts, Israel decided that an agreement for the return of the bodies of Alsheikh and Fink was better than nothing. "At a certain point," a senior defense official recalls, "it was a situation of take it or leave it. We took it."

The result is that Israel has no hard information on the fate of Arad or his whereabouts. Defense sources say Hizbullah and Iran refused to issue any acknowledgment, let alone evidence, that Arad is being held captive. This despite their insistence that Israel release prisoners to demonstrate its sincerity in the negotiations.

"There were periods when we linked their case to other prisoners and MIAs," recalls Ya'acov Perry, former General Security Service chief and now the government's adviser on the MIAs. "But it became clear that [Alsheikh and Fink's] return was the only step possible with these people, whose information is limited to them."

In the end, Israel caved in to Hizbullah insistence that only the bodies of Alsheikh and Fink were up for sale. The two Givati soldiers had been wounded and captured in a Hizbullah ambush on February 17, 1986, in South Lebanon. Hizbullah announced their capture and IDF officers later asserted that they were executed.

By 1991, Hizbullah offered an exchange of the two dead soldiers for Hizbullah members captured by Israel. The Shi'ite organization released evidence relayed to Israel that convinced the IDF that Alsheikh and Fink had died.

But the Hizbullah price was too high for Israel. The Shi'ite group wanted an exchange that comprised all of its members being detained by Israel and the South Lebanese Army. By 1995, after numerous breaks in contact, the organization shortened its list but included its top two members, Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani.

In February 1995, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl intervened. After the failed efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the chancellor obtained reluctant Israeli consent to initiate contacts with Iran on a prisoner exchange. Once again, the Iranians and Hizbullah refused to discuss Arad.

For the Israeli government panel dealing with the IDF soldiers missing in action, the choice appeared to be agreeing to negotiate an inadequate deal or walk away from the prospects of any exchange. Defense sources say the team, then headed by former General Security Service official Yossi Ginosar, suggested another option: negotiations on the basis

of absolute mutuality. In other words, Israel would exchange bodies for bodies, information on the whereabouts of missing Hizbullah members for information of Israel MIAs. Family visits would be granted in exchange for Hizbullah allowing the same to Israelis.

"We didn't diverge from this principle," Perry, who replaced the ailing Ginosar in the negotiations, says.

DURING APRIL'S IDF Operation Grapes of Wrath in South Lebanon, Iran moved to intensify the contacts. The Germans, who wanted to deflect US and Israeli pressure, to downgrade their relations with Teheran, moved quickly, and several weeks later defense officials realized that a deal was nearing completion.

Defense sources say Hizbullah and Iran postponed a final agreement until after the results of the Israeli election. Some of the sources say Teheran apparently did not want such a deal to help the campaign of then-prime minister Shimon Peres.

All this time, the negotiations were being monitored and managed by Perry's panel of intelligence analysts. The two-year-old group, founded by Yitzhak Rabin and which met weekly, included representatives from the Mossad, GSS and IDF intelligence.

Their job was to assess whether Hizbullah or Iran was holding Arad and when they would raise the Israeli navigator as a bargaining chip. "There was intense intelligence-gathering during this whole time," a member of Perry's panel says.

The Israeli panel learned that the negotiations for an exchange had sparked heated debates both in Hizbullah and Iran. It also realized that no deal was possible without Iranian pressure on Hizbullah.

But Israeli intelligence learned nothing more about Arad's fate. He hasn't been heard of since 1988 after negotiations between Israel and Amal failed. Dirani, then head of Amal's security, defected from Amal and took Arad with him to a safe house in the Bekaa Valley.

Intelligence sources now say Dirani lost Arad in May 1988 during the battle at Maidoon in South Lebanon. The sources, basing their information on interrogations of Dirani, say two bodyguards were injured and Arad was taken from the house. The new captors were believed to have been members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, which trains and equips Hizbullah.

Since then, there has been no sign of Arad and nobody, particularly Hizbullah, claims to have him. "It's impossible to know if Hizbullah has MIAs or bodies," Perry says.

The negotiations also have not produced any trace of four other MIAs. Zecharia Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman have been missing since the battle of Sultan Ya'acoub in June 1982. Iman Sa'adon was kidnapped and killed by Hamas in 1989 and his body has never been recovered.

Defense sources acknowledge that the lion's share of their efforts has focused on Arad. Over the last few years, the families of the Sultan Ya'acoub MIAs have been granted less and less access to IDF intelligence officers responsible for conducting the search for the missing soldiers.

Yona Baumel says over the last two weeks he's received information that two of the MIAs, including his son, are alive and being held in Lebanon, perhaps by Shi'ite elements. But his leads have never made it to a skeptical

IDF intelligence. "For the last two years, they've been saying that Zach's dead and they'll bring the proof," Baumel says. "But they've never brought the proof. Meanwhile, we've received information that some of the MIAs are alive."

"I don't know of such information," says Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

As for Arad, his fate might hang on the Iranian promise that negotiations for future prisoner releases will be resumed. Bernd Schmidbauer, the German envoy who engineered the return of Alsheikh and Fink, says this week's exchange established a degree of trust between Israel, Hizbullah and Iran.

SCHMIDBAUER sees Iran as the key player. It wants to prove its respectability to the West as well as its influence in key Middle East, hot-spots like Lebanon. During Operation Grapes of Wrath, Iran unsuccessfully tried to negotiate with the US over an end to the fighting between Israel and Hizbullah.

But Schmidbauer could offer little more than hope - hope that Arad was still alive and that future negotiations would continue to be based on reciprocity. This would mean Arad would be exchanged for Obeid and Dirani.

"I am optimistic about finding a solution to all the other questions on our minds," Schmidbauer says. German sources say Schmidbauer believes that Arad is alive, an assessment formally shared by Israel, but met with skepticism by some in IDF intelligence. The Germans and the Israelis agree, however, that Iran has not yet determined its price for the return of Arad. Teheran and Hizbullah knew that Israel would have exchanged Dirani and Obeid - both kidnapped so that they later could be traded for the IAF navigator - for Arad, regardless of his state.

The assessment by both the Germans and the Israelis is that the government in Teheran does not know Arad's whereabouts. Or, the navigator is being held by opposition radicals, such as the Revolutionary Guard, uninterested in completing a deal that would move Iran closer to the West.

"The Iranians have not finally decided what is the price of Ron Arad," says Hussein Agha, a leading expert on Iran based in London who teaches at King's College.

"I tend to sense that there are two camps, both inside Hizbullah and Iran. But I think the dominant camp is the one that wants to do business. Whether the dominant camp wins depends on the price. It won't start trouble with the dissidents for very little."

In the end, Agha says, Hizbullah and Iran might put off an Arad release until Israel begins pulling out of South Lebanon. Israeli officials privately say they understand that might be the price they will be asked to pay.

"So, despite a promising formula of reciprocity, intelligence analysts say an Arad exchange might hang on the question of whether Iran wants a genuine rapprochement with the West."

Even the optimistic Schmidbauer is uncertain of that one. "We don't know whether Iran really changed its policy," he says. "We'll have to wait and see."

Shavit, the former Mossad chief, agrees. "Iran did what it did out of cold calculations on the strategic level to advance vital interests and it paid the price for those interests," he says. "I wouldn't go so far as to say that this deal reflected a change in its strategy."

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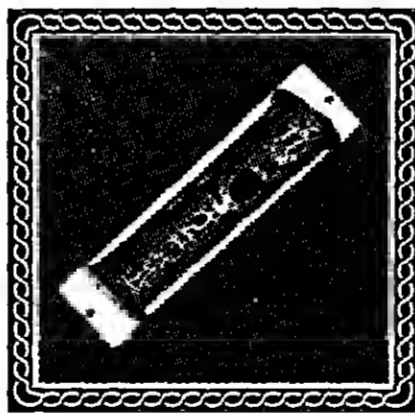
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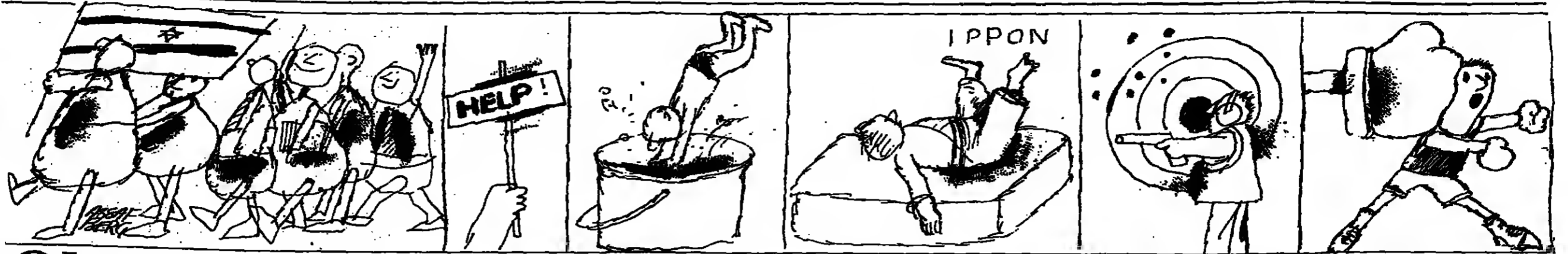
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Olympic blues for the blue and white

Iran...Iraq... Ireland...nu?

Israel's hopes for a follow-up to the successes at Barcelona vanished this week, Hillel Kuttler reports from Atlanta

ALEX Giladi, a member of the International Olympic Committee, had the honor Tuesday of presenting the medals in the men's 78-kg. judo competition at the Georgia World Congress Center.

If things had followed the form of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Giladi might have draped another bronze medal - or even higher - over the head of fellow countryman Oren Smadja.

But in the first week of competition, Israel's three best hopes for medals in Atlanta emerged with none. Smadja was eliminated in the second round, 1992 silver medalist Yael Arad lost her bronze-medal match in women's 61-kg. judo, and Gocha Chichiasvili was beaten just before reaching the bronze-medal round in 82-kg. Greco-Roman wrestling.

Also, fencer Lydia Hatoel-Zuckerman was a controversial decision away from reaching the final eight in foil.

It was a disappointing outcome for a delegation of 25 athletes and many more coaches and officials who came here dreaming for more.

But Atlanta may not qualify as a disaster yet. No sooner had Arad lost her earlier, third-round match to drop out of the running for a gold than the Israeli delegation began mumbling about salvaging a medal in yachting or windsurfing 500 km. away in Savannah.

The one sport where Israel fell far below expectations was in shooting, where Boris Polak sank in the 10m. air rifle competition, said Yitzhak Ben-Melech, sports director of the delegation.

Israel figured on five athletes finishing in the top 10, he said, and that may still be realized by Games' end.

SOME believe the country's surprising success four years ago created undue expectations among Israelis: that two more medals could be brought home again this time.

Criticism also abounds about fundamental flaws in the Olympic Committee of Israel, the country's sports associations, and even the government itself for failing to see beyond Barcelona. In fact, some said that the 1992 Olympics achieved precisely the opposite effect by camouflaging institutional shortcomings before a delirious public.

"Achievers like Smadja and Arad don't reflect Israeli sport, but rather themselves, their own determination," Giladi said.

Israel's greatest faults, he and others charged, lie in the inability to develop talented athletes from a very young age, train and retain superior coaches, and adequately subsidize even mature athletes

and coaches as other countries do.

"It's ridiculous and absurd that you say: 'Achieve and then we'll pay you,'" said the secretary-general of Israel's wrestling federation, Reuven Kenan.

"You have to invest in a kid with the optimistic view that [he] will succeed."

"I think there are a number of things that must change in Israeli sport," Arad said. "Above all, the approach to athletes, supporting them emotionally. That's supreme. It's more important than money or anything."

Dan Kutler, a California native who arrived in Israel two years ago and swims the 100m, butterfly, blamed the "very unprofessional aspect of Israeli sports."

"It's a symptom of some of the backward policies that exist at every level of Israeli society, from education to economics to politics. Unfortunately, it trickles into sports... and the athletes are the ones to pay the price."

The Israeli sports system must understand that "if they want to produce successful athletes, they need to start with them from the beginning. That means giving them financial support, support from the federations. There's no way they can become successful unless they have the tools from the beginning," Kutler said.

Yoram Oberkovitch, president of the Israeli federation, defended the funding charge, saying that while it is "not a lot," NIS 40 million has been invested in the past four years, mostly via lottery revenue.

Another restraint on athletic development is the small talent pool in a nation of five million.

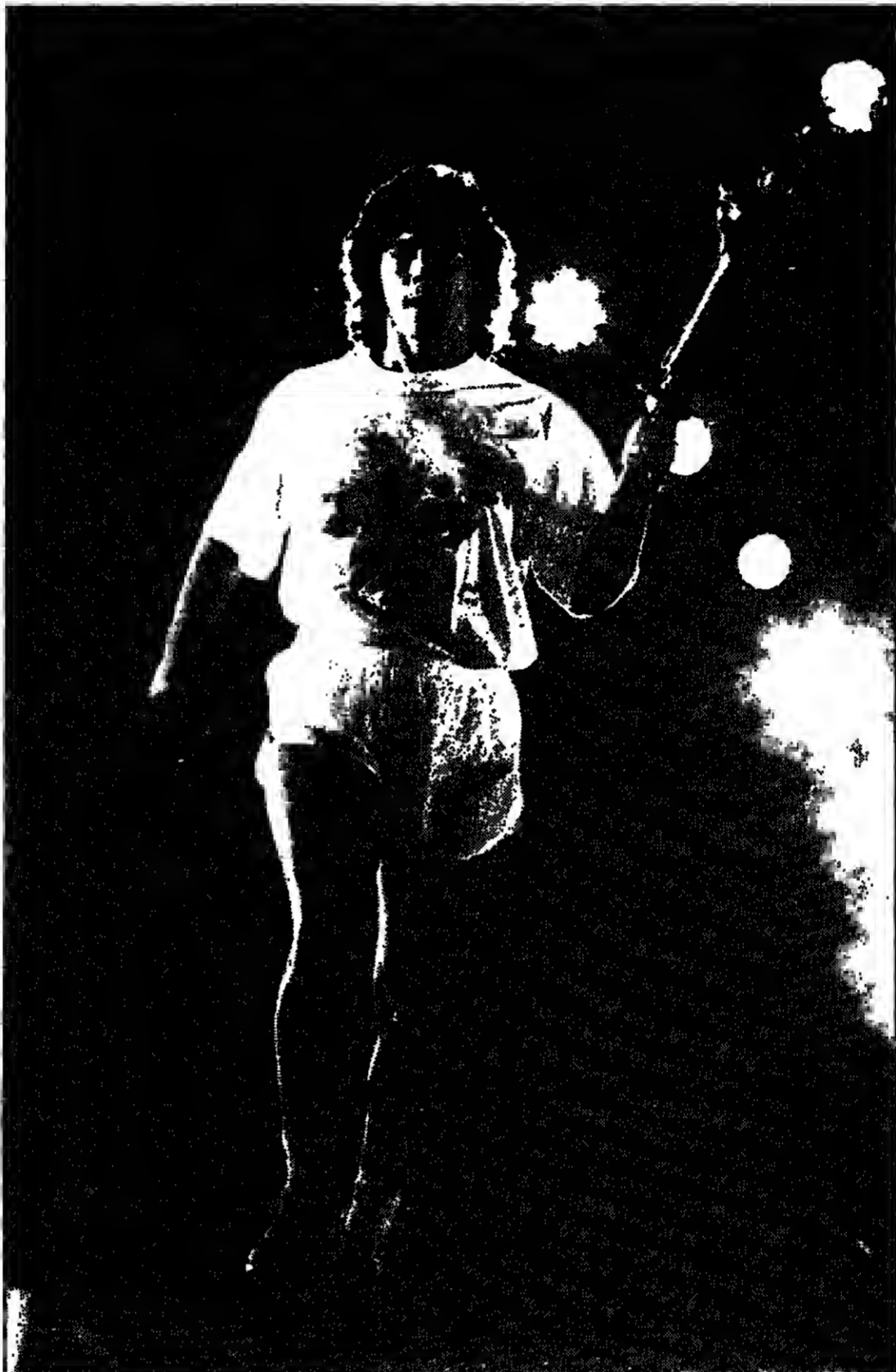
Kenan said the natural talent of Chichiasvili, a native of Tbilisi, is such that a sophisticated training regimen was developed for him, "a program that even in Georgia he wouldn't have gotten."

But Chichiasvili, like Arad and several other top Israeli athletes, must train a lot abroad because "he has absolutely no competition in Israel," said Kenan.

Those shortcomings appear to feed on themselves. Boxing coach Valeri Revreba, a native of Ukraine, said "little by little, the level of boxing is rising" in Israel, and not just because of the Soviet ally. But a lack of role models, in boxing and other sports, hurts because Israeli youth "need to grow up and see their's honor and a future, and this gives them the idea that they can be successful."

"Much of what we did occurred despite the system," said Arad's coach, Danny Leopold. "Even though the system has improved a lot, it still needs to undergo changes, especially in coaching."

"An athlete dedicating eight to 10 years, who makes it a profes-



Judoka Yael Arad, despite failing to gain a medal in this year's competition, remains a symbol for local athletes, as she did in carrying the torch prior to the Maccabiah Games in 1993. (Hanoach Gultzman)

sion, can't be getting NIS 2,000 monthly and think that's okay. [Arad] has been making NIS 3,000. "If we want good, serious athletes who want to achieve and do only that, we must give them a [higher] salary."

But all is not lost. Arad com-

peted for a medal despite a lengthy viral infection. Chichiasvili finished fifth overall and plans to go to the Sydney 2000 Olympics. And Kutler and 100m. backstroker Evtan Orbach established new Israeli records.

Leopold said he sees "lots of potential in Israel" in judo.

Revreba has prospects in mind in the 57, 60, 63 and 70 kg. weights. It all seems to come back to Arad. For better or worse, she is destined to stand as a symbol. Said Giladi: "She's done something no one else will ever do. She earned Israel's first Olympic medal."

FRIDAY night, Olympic Stadium: "The Islamic Republic of Iran," the public address announcer intones. "Iraq. Ireland. Israel."

Where's Israel? The team should be coming over the rise near the cauldron and making their way onto the track. Did the Iranians and Iraqis utter something mean?

It seemed the organizers began rushing the delegations along, trying to make up for delays that ultimately stretched the parade of nations into a two-hour ordeal.

But the Jewish State will be bullied by no one. Chief de mission Efraim Zinger explained later that Israel could not be rushed but would enter disciplined, dignified.

Now how about some dignity on line at the bus station on Friday afternoons?

Fifteen minutes later, Israeli athletes are whittling away the hour in the humid night while the remaining national delegations enter and join them on the infield.

Jordanians stop by, Kuwaitis too. People photograph one another.

On cue, the Israelis begin singing Happy Birthday. It's yachter Shani Kedmi's 19th. Athletes from other countries join in.

Zinger punches some numbers on his cellular phone and hands it to the birthday girl. Kedmi is saying hi to her folks from the most visible place on earth.

Downtown: The Games of the XXVI Olympiad are truly an international event. People coming together, borders forgotten. This is two weeks of brotherhood, of realizing the ideal of united nations competing on the field of play.

Let's see what this kiosk a block from Centennial Olympic Park is selling. Olympics T-shirts: \$22. Olympics magnets: \$5. Hats for \$20, with a country's flag design embroidered across the top, the name in the country's language on the back and an outline of the land under the bill.

Hmmm, this sure looks like blue and white. Yisrael, it says. What's this? No West Bank, no Gaza, no Golan Heights. Sure looks like the ol' '49 borders. United Nations, indeed.

Monday: It's been a busy few days for Lydia Hatoel-Zuckerman and for her relatives and friends. Maybe too busy for some.

She carried the Israeli flag into the Opening Ceremonies. Hatoel fought hard all this morning in the women's foil fencing competition before succumbing.

It's now the second semifinal in the afternoon. In the section reserved for athletes and their families, Hatoel hasn't yet arrived. But her husband is seated, silently devouring a batch of Chicken McNuggets.

Strapped to his back is their two-year-old son, Idan, oblivious to attacks and parries. He's sound asleep.

Tuesday, Georgia World Congress Center: Yael Arad has just lost her final competitive match and with it a bronze medal.

Her husband of nine months, Lior Kahane, picked a good day to see her compete - for the first time.

Previously, Lior explains, when Yael traveled abroad to train and compete. "I only watched on television, turning my head in the other direction" because of the roughness.

Now, he says filling out of the arena, "I'm very happy I saw her and that she gave the best she could."

Arad had just been asked by a reporter what her post-judo plans are. "Babies," she said, not missing a beat.

The news is relayed to Lior. "I've heard that all before," he says smiling, eyes rolling.

That night, Alexander Memorial Coliseum: The bouts in the second pool of 51-kg. boxers are about to begin. The opening preliminary-round match involves Israel's Vacislav Neiman.

Syria's Khaled Falah had beaten a Thai earlier in the day. Let's scan the brackets. Can it be - an Israeli-Syrian bout in the making? Nah, not unless they both defy predictions and proceed to the finals. Falah seems to have been slotted in another pool.

No doubt on President Assad's orders. Assad must be brainwashed by Bibi's credo that peace talks are incompatible with violence.

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Confronting a curious world

BELAYNESH Zevadia is a little tired of all the sudden attention. She shifts nervously in her chair in the middle of the Foreign Ministry's hallway, politely asking the photographer to finish snapping her picture so she can "get out of people's way."

But as the Foreign Ministry's first Ethiopian-born civil servant, and now the first one posted to a foreign consulate, the 30-year-old Zevadia knows she has to grit her teeth and present a smiling face to a curious world.

But she doesn't mind. She knows she's a symbol for Israel's Ethiopian community, and she's proud of it. It's the shutter-clicking and constant requests for interviews that are the embarrassing part.

"Why am I the only one [of my cadet class] in the papers all the time?" she asks good-naturedly, in her still-hesitant English.

"I'm very proud to be the first Ethiopian in the Foreign Ministry," she continues in Hebrew, her voice suddenly firmer. "It's a responsibility. I know that. If I'm successful, it will reflect well on the entire Ethiopian community."

"But first of all, I'm Israeli, even if I was born in Ethiopia. And I'll be representing the State of Israel, not the Ethiopian community."

On August 13, Zevadia leaves for Chicago. As No. 3 in the Israeli Consulate, she will serve as the public-relations officer, where her main responsibility will be to explain the government's position on various issues to the Chicago area population and the local media.

She is already deftly sidestepping any question that might reveal her own political leanings.

"This is not a political job," she insists. "My task will be to represent the position of the present government, no matter the party in power."

Israel's first Ethiopian consular official heads to Chicago. Sue Fishkoff reports

ZEVADIA hails from the village of Ambova in Gondar province, the Jewish region of northern Ethiopia. Her father, Geta, was *kes-ha-kessim* (head Jewish "priest") of Gondar. He died in 1989, three years after immigrating to Israel.

Zevadia arrived here in 1984 on a Jewish Agency scholarship to study at the Hebrew University, which was arranged by her brother, who arrived in Israel 10 years earlier.

She earned her BA in international relations and African Studies, and is now writing her MA thesis on Israel-Ethiopian relations.

"I have to ask my professor for an extension, since I won't finish it before I leave for Chicago," she admits.

Zevadia insists she didn't have to work harder than her peers, either in university or the Foreign Ministry, in order to be recognized. But in the next breath, she says she does maintain extra-high standards for herself.

"I hope to work harder and do better," she says. "I'm a woman, I'm Jewish and I'm black. I want to do my very best."

"Look, I'll tell you the truth about Israel. I can't hide the fact that I'm Ethiopian, and I don't want to. Everyone can see it immediately when they look at me."

If asked about the situation of Ethiopian Israelis today, she won't present a "too-rosy" picture, she says, but neither will she slam government policy towards her people.

"I'll tell them that all beginnings are hard," she explains. "It's been particularly difficult for the older people, who have trouble with the language and with adapting to a new culture. But the youth

are now Israeli in every way.

"Nothing is all rosy, and I have to speak the truth. But you have to look at both sides of the situation. Ethiopians enjoy all the rights of Israeli citizens."

What's her opinion on Diaspora-Israeli relations, and the need for continued American Jewish donations to the UJA?

Again, she demurs, saying the Foreign Ministry does not deal with these kinds of financial concerns.

"I'll tell them the State of Israel is and must remain the center of the ingathering of the Jewish people," she states. "It is a democratic, forward-looking country, an important country."

And what will she say to American Reform and Conservative Jews when they challenge her on the government's policy of nonrecognition?

"That's a hard one," she admits. "For now, the government has pledged to maintain the status quo. I hope that will continue. I will simply explain the government's position."

Like many Ethiopian-born immigrants, Zevadia is modern Orthodox, keeping Shabbat and eating only kosher food (she hopes to find as many kosher restaurants in Chicago as she found in New York, where she did a three-month internship last fall).

"When I came to Israel, I knew nothing about Reform or Conservative Judaism," she points out.

"To me, a Jew was someone who observes the mitzvot. Now I've seen female rabbis and other things that were new to me."

"I think that slowly, this problem will be solved. Listen, at first our Ethiopian rabbis weren't recognized. Finally last year, the first 12 were ordained, and

now one can perform marriages.

Slowly, slowly, solutions are found. Her brief posting to the New York consulate last fall was her longest trip outside Israel since her immigration 12 years ago.

The highlight of her stay was the day in October when she introduced the late Yitzhak Rabin to the Ethiopian prime minister.

Rabin was in New York with many other heads of state for the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. When Zevadia saw the two men had a scheduled meeting, she asked to act as liaison.

"They both told me I was a real bridge between Ethiopia and Israel," she reports with quiet pride. "I never dreamed of reaching such a point."

One trip she'd like to make is a visit back to Ethiopia, to see the village she left 19 years ago.

"I was 11 when I left to study in Addis Ababa, but I remember everything," she says.

"I remember the synagogue and the school. I remember my father leading prayers in the synagogue, translating from Geez [the ancient language in which the Ethiopian Jewish Torah is written] to Amharic for the rest of the congregation."

"When I hear people talk about Ambova, it makes me nostalgic. I'd love to see it again."

Although she cemented some relationships with the New York Jewish community last year, she does not yet have contacts in Chicago, a city she visited only for four days this past March.

It was bitterly cold during her visit, and her packed schedule at the consulate left no time for sightseeing. All she saw was the city's art museum, "from the outside."

But one thing she does know is the Chicago Bulls, the Windy City's dream



Belaynesh Zevadia recalls the time she introduced Yitzhak Rabin to the Ethiopian prime minister: "They both told me I was a real bridge between Ethiopia and Israel. I never dreamed of reaching such a point." (Sari Uziel)

basketball team. Zevadia's already an avid fan, and tries to catch as many of their televised games as she can.

"They're the best team in the world!" she declares, with a resoluteness that would make any Chicagoan proud.

Shattering of Likud ideology replaces the tinkle of glass

THE enduring image of the Likud's election broadcasts was the glass screen that slowly shattered to reveal Shimon

Peres hand in hand with Yasser Arafat. David Levy met Yasser Arafat this week and not even a tinkle was

heard from the glass screen. Nor did the sky fall, nor the earth quake. But a sharp crack might have detected the crumbling of some rock-

THE WEEK THAT WAS MICHAL YUDELMAN

hard Likud ideology.

Levy did not seem to be a man in agony. Smiling widely he shook hands with the untouchable terrorist beyond the pale that his party had said they would never ever talk with. Not once, but five times - enough to bring down a veritable mall full of plate glass.

The cordiality went beyond the requirements of diplomatic protocol. No analysts were rushed to our screens to explain the nuances of body language or sniff out the odors of "chemistry."

"It was almost worth losing the elections to see that," said Labor MK Yossi Beilin with a smirk.

Arafat may have forgotten to bring a glass screen, but his little dig at the Likud did not go unnoticed. He took Levy by the hand and led him to the meeting room in a cute cameo of the election propaganda video of himself and Peres, that sinister and scary image of "Peres abandoning security to Arafat."

"Binyamin Netanyahu should now apologize to the late Yitzhak Rabin for his vicious attacks on Rabin's first meeting with Arafat," said Meretz MK Ran Cohen.

There were of course some angry growlings from the right directed at Levy but not yet at the prime minister who sent him to meet Arafat. But Levy was having none of it. "This wasn't a personal mission by me, but a mission for the govern-

ment. I went in the name of each and every one of you [in the cabinet] individually and collectively.

"There is no 'good, bad and ugly' here. We're all in one cabinet... I am pleased with the way the meeting went. And so is the prime minister."

PRIME CUT

The coalition created theatrically under the weight of a double ultimatum from Shas and the National Religious Party. "Hand over the Religious Affairs Ministry, or else..."

Netanyahu may know enough by now to expect a fast-hand curving ball from Levy, but nobody told him to watch out for Shas leader Aryeh Deri in the outfield. Knesset commentators didn't need Olympic acumen to figure out that however the wrestling bout goes, the winner will still be Deri.

If the crisis is solved, Shas will have more cabinet positions and coalition perks. If Shas quits, Deri can take consolation from seeing his potential rivals in Shas turf out of the cabinet rather than busily accumulating power.

Both Shas and the NRP insist on running the Religious Affairs Ministry for the first two years of the term. This puts in the winning minister's hands the levers of hundreds of political appointments for religious councils and a handy power base for municipal elections. All nicely oiled by the financial allocations for religious institutions, naturally.

For some reason, the religious parties have always considered it an axiom that only a religious minister could possibly hold this portfolio. But, as some MKs noted, this

is a state position with responsibility for the affairs of all the religions, not a feeding trough for narrow sectarian interests.

"The best solution some see for the generally useless ministry is to abolish it completely. Now there's a budget cut we can all applaud, as Yossi Beilin suggested this week."

Beilin got unexpected support from coalition member Professor Alex Lubotsky, a Third Way MK. He recommended that Netanyahu seize the opportunity presented by the squabbling and dump the whole portfolio in the trash can of history.

"This is a superfluous ministry," he said. "It has already proved it brings honor neither to the minister who runs it, nor to religious Judaism."

BACK TO BEKA'A

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani shocked senior police commanders by announcing mounted officers will no longer be used to manage crowds in the hard-demonstrations over Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan.

Kahalani seemed surprised to learn that the police had used horses last weekend. Having failed to back the embattled police having their weekends ruined, and then facing MK Avraham Ravitz's attacks and threats by way of thanks, Kahalani joined in with his own assault on the police.

Jerusalem Police Commander Arye Amit was obviously under the mistaken impression that his men were trying to uphold the law and keep the street open in the teeth of thousands of demonstrators.

Senior police officers cynically remarked to MKs that Kahalani probably thought horses were kept by the police force for changing of the guard.

He also probably assumed water hoses were reserved for dousing lefties and Arabs who demonstrate, they added.

"Rehov Bar-Ilan is not the Beka'a Valley," said Kahalani, who waged war against the Syrians in the Beka'a in 1973.

"How would he know that," said one police officer, "from one brief visit in an armored limo?" The offi-

cers said he had not set a foot outside to observe the demo or have a word with Amit, who was watching his lads dodge stones, dirty diapers, and unidentified flying objects.

After meeting Ravitz and other haredi MKs, Kahalani said the street should be closed during prayer times.

Surely some mistake? Isn't it Third Way policy to keep the status quo ante bellum? "Quiet!" sniffed one MK. "Kahalani is learning. Flattery [of the haredim] will get him everywhere."

SPREE TIME

Tighten your belts, hard times are upon us, warned the nation's economic elite at the Caesarea economic summit last week, before slurring their way through the Dan Hotel's mountain of pate and sorbet.

Child allowances for lower-to-middle-income earners are indeed slashed; health, education and social services are cut. Public transport fares and doctors' fees are up, savings are being siphoned out of provident funds as the stock market careers merrily downhill.

Let them eat cake. Except this time "them" is those running it all. In the lofty cryes of government, it's spree time. The cabinet this week tried to push through the so-called Norwegian Law, which will cost the state (that's us) another NIS 100 million a year.

The Knesset's Finance Committee approved a NIS 46 million increase in party funding - the NIS 155 the recent round of election shenanigans cost us was just too paltry.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon hardly had his feet under his new desk before he felt an urgent need to spend NIS 37 million on some new bridges. Where? In the Golan, of course.

Then there is the 33 to 40 percent salary raise authorized for MKs, ministers and senior civil servants.

"They deserve it, poor things," observed a Knesset wag. "It's very tiring work, all that cutting and slashing of child allowances and old-age pensions."

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Family history not up my street

I don't usually make a point of telling people that I am a grandson of Meir Bar-Ilan, the leader of the National Religious Party — then known as the Mizrahi — who died in 1949 and after whom Bar-Ilan Street in Jerusalem (as well as the university in Ramat-Gan) is named.

There's little to be gained by it. If I mention the fact to observant Jews, they look at my bare head and I know what they are thinking. The non-observant ones ask: Who was he?

In any case, I have only one memory of the man. It is of a Friday night in New York, in 1946 or 1947, around a family table. Meir Bar-Ilan, who is on a visit from Palestine, is making kiddush. Perhaps he has spilled a bit of wine on himself, for there is a stain on his open-collared white shirt. His chest and shoulders are broad, so broad that they block my view of what's behind him. His patriarchally bearded face is stern and loving. That's all I recall of him.

Still, I think I can say with some confidence that, had he foreseen his future, he would have wished the disputed street had been named after someone else — and not only because it is a wretched joke to name the dull streets of a nation after its men of stature.

He would have wished it because the dispute itself would have saddened him immensely, although it would not have surprised him.

"A new problem is now rising among us, the question of 'ciburb and state,'" he wrote in 1922, several years before he settled in Jerusalem.

"To be sure, this issue has out-

AGAINST THE GRAIN HILLEL HALKIN

yet become a 'burning' one, but its flames are already licking at the edges of our life...."

Today, when we speak in Israel of two types of observant Jews, *dati'im* and *haredim* — that is, of the Zionist, national-religious, "knitted skullcap" community, on the one hand, and the anti- or non-Zionist Orthodox "black hats," on the other — we tend to forget that, historically, these two communities were one.

Among religious Jews in late-19th-century Eastern Europe, the difference between Zionists and anti-Zionists had nothing to do with clothing, lifestyle, or degrees of observance. It had to do only with theology — that is, with whether Zionism, a largely secular political movement, could be made to serve Jewish religious ends.

Most Eastern-European rabbis thought it could not; among the minority was Meir Bar-Ilan's father, Naftali Tsvi Yehuda Berlin, head of the Volozhin yeshiva, the Jewish Harvard of its day.

As a halachist, he was not lenient in ritual matters; in the great rabbinical debate over exempting Jewish farmers in Palestine from the obligation of *shemita*, the seventh-year fallowing of land, he opposed the slightest relaxation of the law.

But he also once threw a Jew from Jerusalem out of his house for criticizing the loose behavior of Zionist settlers, calling the visitor a "spy" and replying to his protestations that he was only telling the truth: "The spies sent by Moses told the truth too, but a

truth harmful to the laod of Israel mustn't be told."

Ooe graduate of Volozhin, a man greatly admired by my grandfather, was Abraham Isaac Hacohen Kook, who later became chief rabbi of Palestine under the British Mandate. And it was also Kook who pushed the Mizrahi's philosophy to its mystical extreme with his belief that any Jew choosing to live in the land of Israel, even if he ate pork and profaned the Sabbath, was enriching the religious life of all Jews, since "the spirit of Israel is so closely linked to the spirit of God that a Jewish nationalist, no matter how secularist his intention may be, must despite himself affirm the divine."

NEEDLESS TO say, you do not throw stones at someone who is affirming the divine by driving down the street on a Saturday. You can renege on your fist and shout at him — but you cannot relate to him as your spiritual and physical enemy. That, rather than what covers one's head or who gets to run the ministry of religion first, is the real difference between a *dati* and a *haredi*, and it was born at Volozhin as much as anywhere.

Of course Meir Bar-Ilan would have wanted the street named after him to be closed to traffic on Sabbaths. He, who wrote shortly before his death that "in the state of Israel the law of the Torah must prevail... civil and criminal justice must be based on Torah law," would have want-

ed every street in Israel to be closed to traffic on the Sabbath. He would have continued, however, to regard the secular majority that rejected this view as an ally in the process of redemption.

Precisely here, though, lies the potential for the other, and, one might say, the dark side of the spiritual light that Rabbi Kook believed would make the "national heroism" of state building "all the greater because it will have been made sweeter by holiness."

For if every act of Jewish nationalism is an affirmation of the divine, one can find holiness in the most unlikely places; and he who does not want to hear the harmful truth may end up believing harmful lies. The line running from Volozhin — twisted almost beyond recognition, it is true — also leads to Baruch Goldstein and Yigal Amir, who not by accident came from the *dati* community.

And this is what makes it so complicated. The *haredim* are insular, outlandish, unconcerned with the rest of us, exasperatingly out for themselves; but just as their expectations from secular Israeli society are minimal, so their goals — the closing of a street here, the amending of a conversion law there — are finite, sober, and negotiable.

The *dati'im* are integrative, patriotic; and in them smolder the "fiery sparks" of Rabbi Kook's "great divine flame," which can also become a great fire — and a heap of ashes. In some respects the stone throwers may pose the lesser danger, but I wish they had picked another address.

Read what's written

A VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

WE HAVE recently had four blame examples of how people — and even politicians, diplomats and mediators — don't read what you've written or listen to what you're saying before pouncing on you for being "wrong."

The first example is the question the president of the National Press Club in Washington, Sojia Hillgren, asked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu when he lunched with the Washington press corps on July 10, shortly after addressing a joint session of Congress.

In his address, he had defined what he called "the three pillars of peace": security, reciprocity, and democracy.

In her question, Hillgren, who was moderator, no doubt intending to show Netanyahu for a nasty "hardliner," put words into his mouth that he never uttered and read a meaning into his address that he never as much as implied. She asked, or rather with typical mediocratic imperiousness asked: "So you believe that you can only make peace with a democratized Arab world?"

Netanyahu retorted: "Nope. That's not what I believe."

What he *did* say in his address regarding democracy is: "The third pillar of lasting peace is democracy and human rights. Modern democracies do not initiate aggression. States that respect the human rights of their citizens are not likely to provoke hostile action against their neighbors..."

It is time for the states of the Middle East to put the issues of human rights and democratization on their agenda. [This] means accepting a free press and the right of a legal opposition to organize and express itself... tolerance... an inherent shift away from aggression toward the recognition of the mutual right to differ..."

In his return to Hillgren he added: "I believe there are two kinds of peace... the only way to maintain peace is... to be able to deter war or aggression... With democratic neighbors the peace is inherent... Democracies tend toward peace... If the Middle East were democratized, the issue of defense and security and territories as defense assets would be irrelevant..."

"I don't give up on the idea of achieving peace with our neighbors. I'm just insistent on the right kind of

peace... [O]pposite non-democracies, the only way you can maintain peace is by maintaining your strength to deter future aggressions..."

So contrary to Hillgren's implication and contrary to various alarms, Netanyahu nowhere stipulated democratization as a prior condition for an agreement with the PLO, Syria or anyone else.

Netanyahu's other two pillars also disturbed many people whose notion of Middle East peace is Israel's acceptance of virtually all the conditions laid down by our interlocutors.

Regarding security he told Congress this "means that the Palestinian Authority must live up to the obligations it has solemnly undertaken to prevent attacks against Israel" and that "Syria must cease its policy of enabling proxy attacks against Israeli cities, and undertake to eliminate threats from Hizbullah and other Syrian-based groups."

A "hard line," indeed, worthy of being adopted by all concerned.

Netanyahu's remarks on reciprocity also concerned those for whom the "New Middle East" means primarily an Israel with unilaterally weakened defenses. He defined that as "an unshakable commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes... a relationship of reciprocal respect, recognition and fulfillment of mutual obligations."

Reciprocal respect means avoiding "round after round of hostile diplomacy."

Netanyahu did not mention Egypt, with whom we have an 18-year-old peace treaty, or any other country, but Egyptian officials, from President Hosni Mubarak on down, mediators and intellectuals have long been conducting a campaign of anti-Israel virtual ostracism and vilification whose content and style often equal those of Hitler Germany.

Last week, when Netanyahu went to Cairo for his meeting with Mubarak, he was greeted by a manifesto in Arabic signed by 23 Egyptian intellectuals telling him: "Not welcome, and no hello... We oppose the Israeli racist who was educated in America in the lap of extremism." The *al-Dustour* newspaper greeted him with a Hebrew headline telling him: "Netanyahu, we don't want you in Cairo." Al-

Akbar compared him to Nero "who burned Rome."
(See *Kedot Akharonot*, July 18, and with thanks to the Foreign Ministry's Information Director and Dr. Joseph Lerner, director of Jerusalem-based JMRA/Independent Review and Analysis.)

THE NEXT two examples of how opinionation precedes cogitation are the hysterical reactions of former prime minister Shimon Peres and former foreign minister Ehud Barak to Netanyahu's address.

Speaking to the Labor Party Executive on July 11, Peres attacked Netanyahu for "presenting three conditions which we know cannot be fulfilled" (*The Jerusalem Post*, July 12).

In an op-ed article in the July 15 *Post*, Barak said that "the expectation that the Arab states will transform into democratic regimes and [Netanyahu's] proposing this as another precondition for actual progress is a fantasy."

This from men who would have dragged us into the "New Middle East cloudcockland."

The diplomat who did not listen to, or pretends not to have heard, Netanyahu's address is US Ambassador Martin Indyk. On July 17 he told a symposium at Tel Aviv University that the US does not support Netanyahu's (alleged) demand for democratization as a condition for peace with the Arabs. "We accept the Arab states as they are," he said.

In any event, he said, "the Arab states are in a process of democratization" (*H'n'arev*, July 18).

That will indeed be a new Middle East.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Prof. Ruth Wisse has created a useful metaphor. Writing in *The Washington Times* about the hysterical reaction of American mediators to Netanyahu's election, she said: "The term 'peace process' camouflages the odds, the way a gambling house would rather call itself 'The Big Easy' than 'Risky Business.'"

American mediators variously referred to Netanyahu's victory as "a blow to peace" (*Boston Globe*) and "a victory for fear over hope" (*CNN*).

Jerusalem's own Hirsch Goodman, editor of *The Jerusalem Report*, told a TV interviewer that Netanyahu "hijacked the country."



Bearing testimony

"And you shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might." (Deut. 6:5)

HOW are we to interpret the above verse, which appears in this week's portion of *V'Er'hanan*?

I understand a command to keep every seventh day holy, or one that forbids stealing. But what do I make of a commandment that attempts to ordain one's feelings? Isn't love unique to that it cannot be commanded? Doesn't the tragedy of King Lear begin when he commands his daughters to proclaim their love for him?

But God is not Lear. Since the Torah is a practical guide for a nation of flesh-and-blood human beings, it must be assumed that emotions can and ought to be mandated from the biblical perspective.

Hence the question we must ask ourselves is *how* to love God with all our heart, soul and might?

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

According to the classical work of Rabbi Moshe Haim Luzatto, *The Paths of the Righteous*, the answer is to be found in the next verse: "And these words which I command you this day, shall be upon your heart."

In other words, the meticulous keeping of the Torah's commandments will of necessity bring one to love God. There is no great mystery here; the commandments themselves are an expression of God's love for us, and so in honoring them we will come to love Him. The commandments are the link through which a connection can be made between human beings and God; the stronger the connection, the more meaningful the love. As my wife coyly comments, "Absence makes the heart grow absent."

A second approach is presented by Maimonides, who in his *Sefer Hamitzvot* codifies our verse as the third positive command of

the Torah, but makes "love" synonymous with "knowledge": "The commandment to love Him means that we must investigate and attempt to understand and contemplate His commandments and actions, that we may apprehend Him and in apprehending Him attain absolute joy. This constitutes the love of God."

Firstly, Maimonides maintains that true love can only be built on deep understanding; love at first sight can at best be only an infatuation. But even more importantly, Maimonides insists that knowing God consists of understanding His Torah as well as His world, the two Godly creations presented to us.

In his *Laws of the Fundamentals of the Torah*, he writes: "How do you come to love and fear God? When a person contemplates His great and wondrous works and creations, and from them obtains a glimpse of His wisdom which is incomparable and infinite, he will immediately come to love Him and praise Him."

This principle is also addressed in the *Laws of Repentance*: "And since the only way that God can be tied to the heart of an individual is through the knowledge with which he apprehends Him, if there's little knowledge there's little love, and if there's much knowledge there's much love. That's why a person should devote himself to the understanding and comprehension of the sciences."

Hence for Maimonides it's not enough to perform the commandments to acquire love for God; one must study the details and philosophies of the commandments, as well as the details and cosmology of the physical universe. Loving God requires an understanding of His creation.

But it doesn't end here. Even if a person has tremendous knowledge, both of God's Torah and of God's universe, one further step must be taken toward expressing the love of God. In Maimonides's explanation of the

positive commandment to love God, he concludes with the idea that the individual must also bring mankind to love Him.

Why isn't it enough to just sit in a study hall or science lab 18 hours a day, acquiring knowledge? Maimonides explains that when a person loves deeply, he wants everyone to know. If you love God, you must "call upon the foolish and ignorant to seek knowledge of the truth you have already acquired." (*Sefer Hamitzvot*, 3)

Abraham is called beloved of God (Isaiah 41:8), says Maimonides, not because of his knowledge of Torah and nature, which he certainly had, but because his love for God was so great that he was able to summon many other people as well to believe in God. How do you love God? You bring others to love Him too. When I convince others to love, I become really convinced myself!

Thus far we have dealt with three approaches to loving God: meticulously keeping His commandments, acquiring more and more knowledge about the Torah and the universe, and bringing others to believe.

But there is also a fourth aspect; in order to love God one must simply be a *mensh*, a sensitive human being.

Discussing our verse, the Talmud stresses that "the name of Heaven should be beloved because of you." How does this *kiddush hashem* Sanctification of God's name take place?

"If someone studies scripture and Mishna, and attends to the sages, is honest in business transactions and speaks pleasantly to persons, what do people say concerning him? 'Happy is the father who taught him Torah...'" (*ibid.*)

Perhaps the Talmud is really saying that if we make ourselves into people of compassion and tolerance and sensitivity, we are expressing God-like characteristics and bearing testimony to the fact that we were indeed created in His image.

Shabbat Shalom

Where the money goes

FOR donors anxious to know how their money is being used, here's a summary of some of our main activities.

The Forsake Me Not Fund, following recommendations of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, has provided basic necessities for elderly people in need.

Dental care was high on our list of priorities. And in many cases, we paid for spectacles, hearing aids, medical treatment and operations, such as for cataracts, that are not covered by the various health funds.

We equipped day-care centers with washing machines, dryers, heaters, refrigerators, stoves and other equipment necessary for providing hot meals. In addition, we supplied physical-fitness equipment, television sets, radio cassette/disc recorders, games and handicrafts material. We also provided blankets, linen, beds, kitchen equipment, heaters, fans and clothing.

The Toy Fund gave over 20,000 children in foster care and in institutions toys and games for Hanukka.

We supplied community centers in deprived neighborhoods with sports and physical-fitness equipment, as well books, toys and games for after-school programs.

We purchased toys, books and games for pediatric wards in several hospitals and for special schools and institutions for handicapped children.

The fund also paid for medical treatments and dental care, clothing and school supplies, as well as subsidizing summer-camp payments.

As we always point out, the Toy Fund is not just active at Hanukka — it's an all-year-round endeavor.

The Welcome Home Fund has been concentrating its efforts on raising funds to provide scholarships for education or technical training for new immigrants and young Israelis completing their army service.

This year we gave NIS 90,000 to youngsters at the Hebrew University, the Movement for Fighting Poverty in Israel and, just recently, to needy students studying at the Open University.

Please help us to continue this important work. Those in need are counting on you. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to:

FUNDS	
BEVERLEE BLACK	
Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.	
FORSAKE ME NOT	
NIS 500 In memory of my mother, Miriam Lurie, of Bournemouth, England, who died a year ago, aged 94 — Rita Wertheim, Kibbutz Tira Zvi, Anon., Herzliya.	
NIS 360 In honor of Mrs. Wiesenthal's birthday.	
NIS 250 Yonatan and Lori Rappoport, Safed.	
NIS 106 Anon., J'lm.	
NIS 100 In honor of Linda and Lawrence Laing's 31st anniversary — Yehzekel Laing, Ma'alot. In honor of our cousin Rose Walk's 99th birthday — Issy and Ahuva Nathan, Deganit Alet. In honor of our grandchildren — Shirley and Jack Binman, Ashdod. In honor of the 84th birthday of Ruth Balzura on August 4 — Josef Klier, Tel Aviv.	
NIS 50 In memory of Yelie and Julius Wiseman — Regina Wiseman, Beersheba. In memory of my dear ones — Sylvia Ark, J'lm.	
NIS 1,000 The Biler Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.	
NIS 200 David Scharf, Westlake Village, CA.	
NIS 100 In memory of my beloved sister and brother, Claire Meir and Ben Yuffy — Murray Yuffy, Windsor, Canada. In honor of our grandchildren — Diane and Simon Zamanon, Lincolnwood, IL.	
NIS 80 Anon., Skokie, IL.	
NIS 50 Reuben Cohen, Boise, ID.	
NIS 25 In honor of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — Bill Yeglin, Des Moines, IA. Grant Newton, Sylva, NC.	
NIS 20 In memory of my uncle, Daniel Andrade — Samuel Andrade, Caracas, Venezuela. Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.	
NIS 18 In honor of David Bar-Ilan — Noga and Bruce Revesz, Cedar Grove, NJ. Anon., Rep. of Panama.	
NIS 165 In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Rabbi Stanley and Marion Woolf from Dennis and Binky Woolf (E20), Eddie and Ruth Woolf (E20), Barbara and Arthur Harris (E50), Freda and David Graham (E50) and Annie Kinsberg (E25).	
NIS 130 In honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shiur, Aust. S100 J. V. Anderson, Tasmania, Australia.	
New Donations	
NIS 3,582.52	
NIS 656	

TOY FUND	
NIS 500 Anon., Herzliya.	
NIS 200 A birthday gift to Mayan Gordon from her great-grandparents, which she would like to donate so that a child less fortunate than herself can also have a good time at summer camp.	
Anon.	
NIS 150 Menachem and Chaya Ben Haim, J'lm.	
NIS 100 Anon., J'lm. In honor of my great-grandson Yafet Eidan in South Africa — Ruth Balzura, Tel Aviv.	
NIS 50 In memory of my mother, Jean Richardson Mullen — K. Parker, Kfar Hess, Anon., Tel Aviv. In honor of the bar mitzva of Ari Weitz — Regina Wiseman, Beersheba. In memory of my dear ones — Sylvia Ark, J'lm.	
NIS 100 In honor of our grandchildren — Diane and Simon Zamanon, Lincolnwood, IL.	
NIS 50 In honor of the birth of Sarah Danielle to Richard and Ellen Calmos — Charles and Anna Treiter, Deulham, MA.	
NIS 30 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.	
NIS 18 In honor of David Bar-Ilan — Noga and Bruce Revesz, Cedar Grove, NJ. Anon., Rep. of Panama.	
NIS 5125 In honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shiur.	
New Progress	
Donations	
NIS 1,741.12	
NIS 306	
Totals	
NIS 88,400.60	
NIS 322,317.20	
WELCOME HOME FUND	
NIS 200 Yonatan Silver, J'lm.	
NIS 100 Anon., J'lm.	
NIS 50 In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Weitz — Regina Wiseman, Beersheba. In memory of my dear ones — Sylvia Ark, J'lm.	
NIS 100 In honor of our grandchildren — Diane and Simon Zamanon, Lincolnwood, IL. In remembrance of Rabbi John Zaker of Temple Beth Shalom, San Leandro, CA — Anon.	
NIS 320 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.	
NIS 18 Anon., Rep. of Panama. In honor of David Bar-Ilan — Noga and Bruce Revesz, Cedar Grove, NJ.	
NIS 512 Anon., Boston, CA.	
NIS 5125 In honor of Dr. A. Ages, teacher of our Shabbat morning Shiur, DM80 Esther Ludwig-Kupfman, Germany.	
New Progress	
Donations	
NIS 861.86	
NIS 5268	
Totals	
NIS 252,747.31	
NIS 27,978.71	
(other currencies converted into shekels)	

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

FIRE IN MOSCOW

Mekor Chaim, the educational center of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz in Moscow, was ravaged by a fire that broke out on Friday night, July 12, 1996.

Established by Rabbi Steinsaltz in 1989, Mekor Chaim was a major center of Jewish studies and seminars for Russian Jewish teachers and communal leaders.

Thousands of individuals from across the former USSR have participated in activities there and have studied literature published by this institute.

The center also housed the largest Jewish library in all of Russia, a collection of thousands of books and educational materials, all of which were consumed by flames.

Rabbi Steinsaltz is determined to rebuild the center, as it is written, "Bricks have fallen, we will rebuild with dressed stones" (Isaiah 9).

WE URGE YOU TO HELP US REBUILD THIS VITAL CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE

Contributions may be sent to:

The Institute of Jewish Studies in CIS
P.O. BOX 1458, Jerusalem 91013

or to:
Bank Leumi Main Branch 901,
Account 383200/00

of glass



Two brothers from Haifa

BRIDGE
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

East dealer
North-South vulnerable

North (Ilan)
 ♠ Q 10 9 6 4
 ♥ A 10 6 4
 ♦ A
 ♣ 9 8 4

West
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ Q 9 5
 ♦ Q J 10 6 5 4 2
 ♣ 5

East
 ♠ A 8 7
 ♥ K J 2
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ K J 10 6 2

South (Ophir)
 ♠ K J 2
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ 9 7 3
 ♣ A Q 7 3

West North East South
 2 NT pass 3♦ pass
 pass double pass 4♣
 pass pass double (all pass)

Opening lead: DQ

winter sport.

THIS WEEK'S deal, from the trials, features Ophir as declarer in a terrible-looking four-club contract. Brothers will be brothers, and it was Ilan who forced him into the predicament. The bidding began with a one-notrump opening by East and a two-notrump response by West, which was a transfer to diamonds. East dutifully bid three diamonds, but when this came around to Ilan (North), he doubled for takeout. He was unwilling to allow the opponents to buy the contract when he had a good chance for a partscore in either major.

Unfortunately, his partner did not hold a major suit to bid, and when Ophir bid four clubs, East became the happiest player at the table. East doubled the contract, expecting to take at least two or three club tricks, but he was in for a surprise. By the time the last card was turned, East had only one club trick! This was due to the skillful play by Ophir.

THE pair trials for the selection of this year's open team to represent Israel in the upcoming team Olympiad concluded last week with a triumph for the young Herbst brothers of Haifa. Ophir and Ilan took the early lead in the strong six-pair field and never looked back. Their victory ensured them a spot on the team along with two other pairs.

One of these will be the runners-up, Nir Grinberg of Tel Aviv and Zohar Tur of Jerusalem. The third pair is to be selected by committee between the third- and fourth-placed finishers, and may not be decided for another two months, after all four pairs complete a training schedule. Regarding the women's trials, which was damaged by a number of incidents, a committee was due to meet last night to discuss further selection process.

The bridge Olympiad is not to be confused with the Olympics in Atlanta. The bridge Olympiad is under the auspices of the World Bridge Federation. Last year, however, the International Olympic Committee agreed to recognize bridge as a sport, and added it to the schedule of the Olympics as an exhibition.

Normally such action leads in future years to a sport's inclusion in the regular games. But it has not been determined whether bridge is a summer or a



Two dolphins are treated in Cairo by British dolphin expert Doug Cartledge. Dolphins are regular visitors to our coast and a good many are sighted every year in our region. (APF)

Day of the dolphin

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

WE don't usually think of dolphins as native to Israel. But they are regular visitors to our coast and a good many are sighted every year in our region. From February 1993 until September 1994 (according to a survey conducted by the Department of Maritime Civilizations and the Recanati Center for Maritime Studies at Haifa University), trawlers reported 187 dolphin sightings that comprised some 800 dolphins along the coast. Of course there were far fewer than 800 dolphins - many cases different trawlers sighted the same individuals.

The dolphins were seen at distances of 0.4 to 25km. off the coast with an average of about 6km. offshore. Those seen closer to land were almost always in distress. Almost all the sightings were south of Netanya.

No doubt they came from the north of Israel, but this distribution is not fully understood. It may, the experts say, have something to do with water tempera-

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

tures and feeding preferences. The schools, or pods, usually contained five or six animals, and some were fairly young calves. Most of the dolphins sighted were the now-familiar bottlenose dolphins, but there were also sightings of common dolphins, striped dolphins, and even two small pods of Risso's dolphins.

Unfortunately during the last two years 12 dolphins have been found dead or have died shortly after being sighted on our shores, and another seven drowned when caught in fishing nets. Since, like us, dolphins are mammals, they must breathe air, and if they get trapped underwater they drown. This seems excessively high since in the past 40 years there were reports of only some 50 dolphins found dead or dying.

Of course reporting may have improved, but there are also the problems of pollution, which is

getting worse all over the Mediterranean, and the spread of the morbillia virus in seals, dolphins and porpoises. It is widely held by scientists that pollution weakens the animals and then the virus attacks them.

According to veterinary scientists Dr. Itamar Tsur, of the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine of the Hebrew University in Rehovot, and Dr. O. Goffman of the University of Haifa - who performed the autopsies - the dolphins probably suffered from the morbillia virus, parasitic lesions, pneumonia, liver damage and in one case from a brain lesion. The dolphins that died in the fishing nets were also emaciated and had a variety of pathologies.

Dolphins have become a matter of great interest to many people, in large part due to TV documentaries and marine parks. The intelligence of dolphins is a matter of serious research, and many attempts at direct communication are being made.

They have a highly varied language and can transmit accurate and quite complicated information to one another. They are also able to learn the proper response to many human words and, unlike most dogs, they respond to a given word regardless of the tone used. Certainly these wonderful animals deserve all the protection we can offer them, even if this means changing the type of fishing nets used, as has been done in other waters, and cleaning up our polluted marine environment.

He was looking for the best move

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

WITH his chess clock ticking, the great David Bronstein once sat in front of the board for 50 minutes before making his opening move. In his inimitable style he later explained that he was looking for the best move.

But the Bronsteins of today are few and far between. Many modern-day masters openly admit that they do not necessarily seek the best move, but rather the move which will most discomfort the opponent.

On a lower level, club players and many novices often fear playing the obviously best move in the belief that a strong opponent is probably expecting it. They therefore deliberately deviate from theory, play an inferior move, and get beaten more quickly than they would have had they followed their hearts.

Well aware of this, chess writers are churning out books which aim to provide such players with a solid opening repertoire against all responses.

In his book *An Opening Repertoire for White*, Raymond Keene notes that, since chess players have restricted time and resources at their disposal for game preparation, "it makes excellent sense to work out a tangible, fixed group of opening variations in which to carry out a specialized study."

Choosing White's opening move 1.d4, Keene notes that it is a sound, solid move, aiming for central control and a restrained but ultimately convincing attacking buildup. "It does not lend itself to premature adventures and in general you can avoid colliding with too many devastating surprises from your opponent."

Avoiding arduous, lumbering analysis with endless variations, sub-variations, and analytical trees branching out at every juncture, Keene suggests 1.d4 lines against all of Black's defenses. These are based on newly elaborated ideas, which allow plenty of scope for the individual's creative contribution.

Keene devotes the final chapter in his book to the "1.d4 Oscars," listing his top 44 games of all time. Kasparov's following masterpiece against Belyavsky takes pride of place. According to Keene, "Kasparov's inefficiency of 1.d4 blends icy efficiency and almost balletic artistry in a way that excels the achievements of his mighty antecedents."

vions encounter Belyavsky had tried 11...Nc6 but lost out after 12.Ba6!
 12.Bf5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Ne8, 13...Ne4 fails to 14.Nxe5!!
 14.Bg3 Nc7 15.Qg4 Qe8 16.Bd7 Qd8 17.Rad1 h5 18.B3 h4 19.B4 Bg5, or 19...g5 20.Bf5 gx5 21.Qg4+ 20.Bf5 g6

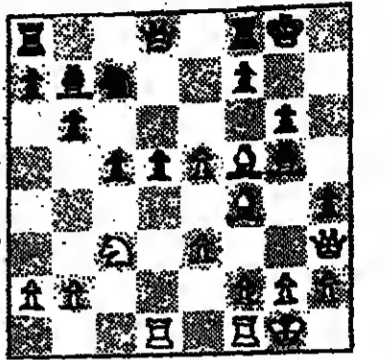


DIAGRAM 1

21.Ne4! Keene remarks that 99 percent of players would have settled for the simple bishop retreat. 21.Bg4. Kasparov's choice reflects his brilliance.
 21...Bxf4 22.exf4 gx5 23.Qx5 dxe5. The queen sacrifice appears to be the only sensible way to stem the onslaught. 24.Qg4+ Kh7 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Qxh4+ Kg8 27.Qe7 e5 28.Re1 exf2+ 29.Kxf2 Rd2+ 30.Re2 Rxe2+ 31.Kxe2 Bg6+ 32.Kf2 Ne6 33.f5 Nd4 34.e6 Rf8 35.Qg5+ Kh7 36.e7 Re8 37.f6 Ne6 38.Qh5+ Kg8 1-0

KOSLOVSKY'S 1932 composition is regarded as a classic. White to play is at odds to prevent the queening of the Black h pawn which would spell White's demise in a technically lost endgame. White, however, can find a truly brilliant way to draw.

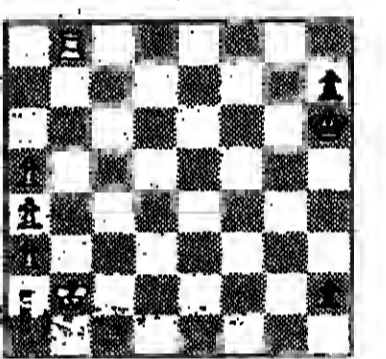


DIAGRAM 2

Solution: 1.Rb6+ Kg5 2.Rb5+ Kg4 3.Rb4+ Kg3 4.Rb3+ Kg2 5.Rb2+ Kg1 6.Rb1! Black's rook queen can only flee to five squares along the h file. White can then keep checking the Black king at will, and if the monarch makes his way to the sixth rank the queen would be lost to a check on b6. 0.5-0.5

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Isn't it safe to go round it? (9,6)
- One contriving to be a craftsman (9)
- Groupy tinker you held (5)
- Group with back trouble at nerve-centres (7)
- Of Dawu or Laura in disguise (7)
- Shade left of centre (3)
- Braided sweet was sent back (7)
- Unusually noughts might be coming from this instead of blanks? (7)
- Mother left bill with accountant for care (7)
- A garden had been cultivated on the island (7)
- Little bope of some sunshine (3)

- Do not notice the uncared-for state (7)
- Man provided backing with large number doing mischief (7)
- Had not liked what Edward had included (5)
- Bubbly enjoyed by a hypochondriac, it's said (9)
- Paying one's fine in convicts' home? (5,10)

DOWN

- Draws vessel and vessel using skill on board (15)
- Either way it's off (3,2)
- Loosely foudles or embraces (7)
- Alternative place in Somerset where trees are grown (7)

- Opens out assorted drapes on Sunday (7)
- Lake province (7)
- Again a cur is removed from the country (9)
- Old king at St Andrews? (5,3,7)
- Give information going round in the glen (9)
- And the rest is a bit sketchy (3)
- Ben takes nothing less than 60 minutes (3)
- Rush during short visit about a set of principles (7)
- The definite item (7)
- Little room with Stan jumping - he's athletic (7)
- Outshines despite the loss of light (7)
- Composition played loudly before mid-January with half the guests (5)

SOLUTIONS

SCRATCHING UP
 1. RAINBOW
 2. MURDER
 3. MURDER
 4. MURDER
 5. MURDER
 6. MURDER
 7. MURDER
 8. MURDER
 9. MURDER
 10. MURDER
 11. MURDER
 12. MURDER
 13. MURDER
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 24. MURDER
 25. MURDER
 26. MURDER
 27. MURDER
 28. MURDER
 29. MURDER
 30. MURDER
 31. MURDER
 32. MURDER

Yesterday's Quick Solution
 ACROSS: 7 Drawn, 8 Celery, 10 Leisure, 11 Press, 12 Sole, 13 Room, 14 Flash, 18 Press, 22 Start, 23 Notable, 24 Absent, 25 Perish.
 DOWN: 1 Idolise, 2 Rapidly, 3 Vassa, 4 Respond, 5 Sever, 6 Copy, 9 Rejoicing, 14 Distant, 15 Crushed, 18 Message, 19 Oscar, 20 March, 21 Utter.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Ruin (5)
- Untied (5)
- Flesh (7)
- Very big (5)
- Gladden (7)
- Foundation (4)
- Leaves out (5)
- Enthusiastic (5)
- Nodule (4)
- Ancient ship (7)
- Equipment (5)
- Escape (5)
- Inspect (7)
- Intense (5)
- Snake (5)

DOWN

- Straight edge (5)
- Transform (7)
- Due (5)
- Ghost (7)
- Spiritual song (5)
- Term of greeting (5)
- Lean (5)
- Thing (4)
- European capital city (4)
- Shellfish (7)
- Clap (7)
- Concur (5)
- Beneath (5)
- Bullock (5)
- Happening (5)
- Live (5)

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Travels in the land of Dracula

From Vlad the Impaler to Ceausescu, Haim Shapiro enjoys the sites of Romania

In the Carpathian Mountains, it's the villains who are the heroes, and the biggest villain of them all is Vlad the Impaler, otherwise known as Dracula. I visited Dracula's castle, or to be more precise, one of three Dracula's castles in Romania. In fact, as our Romanian hosts were quick to point out, Bram castle is not really Dracula's at all. It is actually a very well-preserved medieval fortress, overlooking a mountain pass which served as a customs station, before the unification of Romania. It was only a short drive from our hotel in Poiana-Brasov, a ski and mountain resort above the picturesque town of Brasov, which itself has its share of medieval buildings.

The connection between the castle and the late 19th-century novel by the British author Bram Stoker is a tenuous one. In the novel, Count Dracula, who is hundreds of years old, is a vampire who is transformed at night into a huge bat and flies around the countryside, drinking the blood of his victims.

In real life, Vlad the son of Dracul was a prince who fought against the Turks. He was best known for impaling his enemies, Turks and local people alike, on wooden stakes. What has linked the two is the fact that the makers of the first Dracula film in 1931 used exterior shots of Bram Castle.

Even without the legend, the castle is well-worth visiting, with its tower and secret passages. Best of all is a magnificent view over the countryside, with mountains, forests and fields, all set out like a patchwork quilt. At the foot of the castle is an outdoor folklore museum, in which you can visit typical farmers' homes.

What is amazing about the whole thing is just how little has been done to commercialize the site. The nearby village has a goodly share of medieval and baroque houses, but nary a Dracula pub or tavern.

Outside the castle gates, local residents have set up stands, offering hand-knit sweaters, crocheted table cloths, and hand-made wooden toys, but there are only few limp T-shirts and hand-painted wooden plaques to remind us of Count Drac.

I could not help but imagine what a site like this would be like if it were in any Western European country. There would be cute little Made-in-China Dracula dolls and Dracula capes for the kiddies and little coffin-shaped ashtrays for their parents, not to mention a wealth of rubber spiders and plastic fangs.

In short, Romania may not be the most developed country in the world. The roads may not be in any great shape and some of the hotels may be less than modern, but at least it has thus far escaped the blight of gross commercialization that one sees elsewhere.

This was quite evident soon after our arrival in Bucharest. Contrary to what my guidebook had said, it did not seem to me that the late Communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, who was overthrown in the 1989 revolution, had destroyed the city. There were still plenty of picturesque palaces, churches and 19th-century mansions with a distinctive style, a blend of east and west.

We were able to see the interior of one of the best of these homes when we visited the Casino Bucur, an Israeli-owned enterprise which incorporates not only a very pleasant restaurant, but what is probably the most beautiful gambling casino I have ever seen. Instead of glitter and bright lights, one finds here all the original carved and inlaid wood paneling that graced the original mansion.



Dracula's castle lives up to its name with its tower and secret passages.

(Sam Orlow)

This same neo-Moorish style, executed in warm dark wood, is also found in the interior of the Bucharest synagogue. For the visitor, the other fascinating feature of this synagogue is the set of marble plaques in the entry, in which some of the names have been plastered over.

In the true tradition of the Socialist republics, the local resident who told us about the Jewish community professed to know nothing about what had been effaced from these plaques.

We found the same approach at the Parliament, the huge wedding cake monstrosity that Ceausescu had built as a monument to himself.

This edifice, originally known as the Palace of the People, may not be in the best of taste, but it is impressive. The sheer size of the structure, the halls, corridors, chandeliers, doors and everything else, together with the mass of ornate decoration and marble paneling, is truly overwhelming.

But what made the greatest impression was our

guide, a holdover from the bad old days. With a completely straight face, he assured us that Ceausescu's underground hideaway and nuclear-bomb-proof shelter, of which we had heard and read so much in the days following the revolution, simply did not exist.

There were, apparently, no secret passages in the palace at Sinaia, built by King Carol I at the turn of the century.

Not far from the palace is Sinaia's monastery, around which the village was built. The monastery was founded by two monks who had previously spent several years at St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai.

Like most of the religious institutions in the country, it is Romanian Orthodox. Also typical are the small, almost tiny, proportions of the old church, the walls of which are covered in frescoes.

It was from Sinaia, a skiing resort in the winter, that we made our way for dinner at the Casa Taranesca in the nearby village of Predeal. A luxurious hunting lodge in traditional peasant style, it was formerly reserved for Ceausescu's personal guests and is now a restaurant open to the public.

It was here that we experienced the first, and the most memorable of what turned out to be a series of traditional Romanian feasts in various restaurants, each more characteristic and picturesque than the next.

We were greeted at the entrance by an enthusiastic Romany (Gypsy) orchestra and ceramic cups of *nica*, the Romanian plum brandy. Since we were honored guests, this *nica* had been double distilled and thus was particularly potent. It helped, however, to get down the vast array of hors d'oeuvres, all spread out on a wooden board.

These consisted mainly of a variety of country cheeses and smoked meats, with raw vegetables and fresh country bread. This was followed by soup and Romanian grilled meat. Naturally, we were also served *momoliga*, the traditional Romanian corn meal.

One thing was very clear, our hosts had never heard of cholesterol. Another thing was also clear, as much as we wanted to hear Romanian folk music, they wanted to please us by playing Israeli and Jewish music. Apparently there is not a Gypsy fiddler in all of Romania who does not know "Hava Nagila" and "My Yiddishe Mama."

Traveling to Romania, like traveling to most of the world these days, is usually far cheaper for those willing to sacrifice the spontaneity of arriving on their own and finding a quaint local hotel.

Package tours now often have unbeatable prices. Among the wide variety of tours and packages available from Histours, for example, is a 14-day excursion with a week (half board) at the Black Sea and a week at Poiana-Brasov, for \$590, including airfare.

The company also offers special rates at selected hotels throughout the country and car-rental deals for travelers going on their own. However, would-be drivers should be ready for narrow roads, often in bad repair.

Tourists can find a wide selection of restaurants. A very lavish meal in a good restaurant, patronized by Romanians and tourists alike, may be had for about \$25 per person.

The writer traveled as a guest of Histours and its Romanian counterpart, Mondo Inceours, and the Romanian Tourism Ministry.

Killing fields as tourist sites

TRAVEL TIPS
POST TRAVEL REPORTER

ONE of the wonders of world tourism is the speed at which a former battle-ground can turn into an attraction.

If you want to see what's left of former Yugoslavia, Natour is offering a six-night package to Croatia from September 1. The price of \$599 includes half board and excursions to sites such as Dubrovnik.

And Ophir Tours is offering a 19-night "golden tour" of Vietnam on September 19, with accommodation in first-class hotels. The price of the tour is \$3,695.

A SEVEN-NIGHT, do-it-yourself tour of Italy, with a flight to Milan, a rental car, and hotel accommodation in Milan, Venice, Florence and Rome is being offered by Bali Tours Nosim Lohofesh, with prices starting at \$926.

FOR THOSE who want to enjoy the wanderer's life without the major investment of buying a caravan, Netivel Keshet represents a German firm which rents recreational vehicles. The price, per day, for a vehicle sleeping five ranges from DM 126 (about NIS 260) in low season to DM 215 in the summer.

PRICES TO THE Far East on Royal Jordanian have dropped as a result of a new ticketing procedure, with a round-trip fare to Delhi for \$696 (about NIS 2,200) to Bangkok for \$795, and to Jakarta, Calcutta, or Singapore for \$835.

A 97-DAY, round-the-world cruise on the Cunard Lines' *Queen Elizabeth II*, starting January 4, is available from £15,360 (about NIS 75,000). If you book before August 15, there is a 20 percent reduction. Ophir Tours, which represents Cunard, notes that either way, the price includes a business-class flight from London to New York and a night in the Waldorf Astoria, as well as \$2,000 per couple in shipboard credit.

For those with less time or money, shorter stretches are available, such as the 10-day Haifa-to-London stretch, for £1,700.

THE TEL AVIV Sheraton is offering Israelis a summer rate of NIS 650 a night for two. The price includes breakfast and a fruit basket. For those who don't want to sample Tel Aviv's nightlife, the hotel has in-room pay TV with thousands of films available.

ISRAIR, formerly Kanfei Ha'emek, which has won the tender to operate as the second airline flying between Tel Aviv and Eilat, has set a one-way fare of NIS 226. In response, Arkia is offering fares of NIS 169 one-way on selected flights between Ben-Gurion Airport and Eilat. On the more popular flights, especially around weekends, the Arkia fare remains NIS 241.

IF YOU want to travel the country in luxury, Chim-Nir offers limousines for those with more money than time. The price of a Bell 206 L-3, accommodating six passengers in air-conditioned comfort, is \$950 an hour.

Jerusalem's Rehov Hanevi'im: Worth visiting, and revisiting

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

In any other city in the world, the area around Jerusalem's Rehov Hanevi'im, "The Street of the Prophets," would be a major tourist attraction, but there are so many other things to see in the capital that it is often forgotten.

The luxury of being a Jerusalemite or an Israeli who visits Jerusalem from time to time is that we can see the sights that most tourists miss. One of these is the street which in the 19th century was one of the city's main thoroughfares. Second only to Jaffa Road, still Jerusalem's main business street, Rehov Hanevi'im was the hub of a fashionable residential area.

One of the leading 19th-century institutions, the hostel of Prince Sergei, was located just off Rehov Hanevi'im, with its main entrance on Rehov Mombaz, the narrow street leading from the Russian Compound to Rehov Hanevi'im.

Today, the only entrance through which visitors are allowed is at 13 Rehov Heleni Hamalka, which in former days was the tradesmen's entrance but is now the entry to the Jerusalem offices of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

The Russian Orthodox Church flourished in 19th-century Jerusalem, with tens of thousands of pilgrims visiting every year. Most were poor peasants who paid for their journey with their life savings and crowded into the



Rehov Hanevi'im has plenty of interesting buildings, such as Tabor House (above). (Zeev Ackerman)

dormitories of the Russian Compound itself. For the nobility, however, Prince Sergei Alexandrovitch built this accommodation with deluxe facilities and furnishings.

Of special interest are the two round towers in the courtyard, which served then, as now, as toilets. At that time, the toilets were on the upper floor, and connected by a bridge to the guest's rooms, which were also on the upper floor. After the Russian Revolution, the building was used by the

British mandatory government and after Israel's independence, by the Agriculture Ministry. The outdoor exhibit of farm implements is from that period.

When you leave the courtyard, you can turn left and left again, passing the main entrance of Prince Sergei's hostel on Rehov

Mombaz. Across from it, are just a few of the many cafes and pubs which have sprung up in this part of Jerusalem in recent years.

When you get to Rehov Hanevi'im, you can turn right and continue to number 25, where you will find a large stone house with a large yard, shaded by pine trees.

Above the upper floor is a small structure, known as the "room of the prophet." Built, apparently, in the 1860s, the structure is one of the many in Jerusalem belonging to the London Jewish Missionary Society.

It may be of some consolation to Jewish readers to learn that despite the attempts of Anglican missionaries to convert Jews, by providing medical care and schooling, hardly any Jews were won over and most of the converts were Greek Orthodox Christians.

Across the street and up the hill a little is the ORT School. Although most of the structure is contemporary, the building on the left was originally built for the head of the Lutheran Church in Jerusalem. Prior to that, the entire area had served as a luxurious tent camp where the Kaiser resided during his visit to Jerusalem in 1898.

Continue up Rehov Hanevi'im to Rehov Ethiopia, one of the more elegant of the city's old streets. If you can, peek into some of the courtyards to catch a glimpse of the homes and gardens, some of which have been very lovingly restored.

Toward the end of the street on the right is the Ethiopian Church, built in the traditional Ethiopian style in the 1880s. The courtyard is a refuge of peace and shade surrounding the round church. If you wish to remove your shoes and

enter the church, you can see that in the center is the "holy of holies."

These are only a few of the remarkable buildings in the area. Others include Tabor House, home of the Swedish Theological Institute, at 58 Rehov Hanevi'im, and the handsome structure presently occupied by *The Jerusalem Post* books department at 12 Rehov Harav Kook.

Finally, just across the road and up the hill a little is a lane leading to Beit Ticho, the home of one of Jerusalem's first eye specialists and his wife, a noted artist.

The building now forms part of the Israel Museum and whether you enjoy a coffee and cake in its cafe, or just sit and rest on one of the benches in the garden, this is a good spot at which to conclude this particular mini-tour.

TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. Led by guides Miriam and Emmanuel Shilo, we'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, Kfar Haruv and Mitzpe Shalom, the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzin, the Druse village of Ein Kinya, Emek Habacha, Kibbutz Ein Zivan, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wild animals.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1996.

The price: NIS 550. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second.

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Finding an ancient settlement with modern means

Archeologists are using airborne thermal imaging to uncover a 5,000-year-old city buried in the Golan, Abraham Rabinovich reports



Dr. Eyal Ben-Dor stands above a 5,000-year-old-buried city near Ramot in the Golan. Ben-Dor and a colleague used a video thermal radiometer to produce details of the buried city.

DAWN was still two hours away when the helicopter approached the Golan Heights at low altitude, its pilot straining to see his objective in the darkness. He circled it slowly as the operator behind him activated an imaging device.

The flight last October was not a military reconnaissance mission behind Syrian lines but a reconnaissance into the deep past — an attempt to determine the outline of a 5,000-year-old buried city. A heat-sensitive instrument initially designed by an Israeli electronics firm for military purposes was being used to help solve an archeological puzzle.

The mission was successful enough to possibly herald a new chapter in archeological exploration.

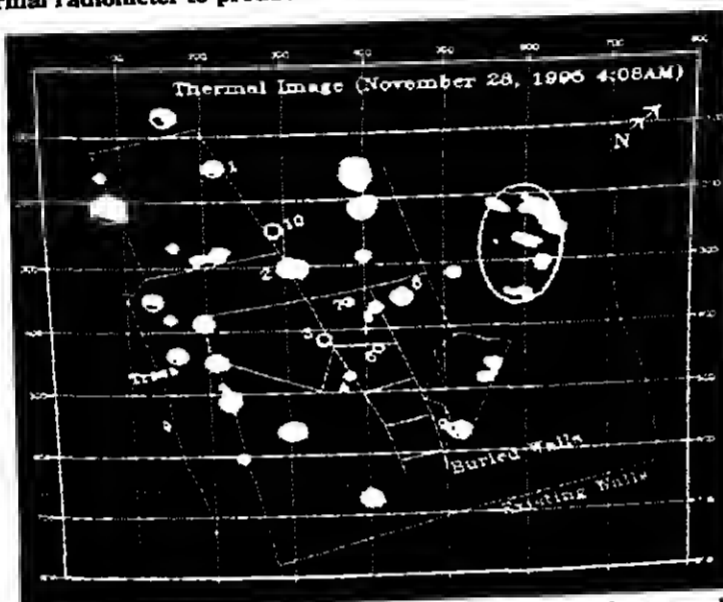
The site of the probe, just east of the Golan resort village of Ramot, had been examined at ground level by professors Moshe Kochavi and Yuval Portugali. Tel Aviv University archeologists. Remains of an ancient basalt wall, 5m high, partially surrounded a large and seemingly barren space known as the Leviah Enclosure.

At least 10 other such enclosures have been identified in the southern Golan. Researchers believed that they most likely served ancient nomads either as animal pens or as defenses against marauders. However, when Kochavi undertook a test probe he

found that the soil was far from virgin. Beneath it was a dead city dating from the Early Bronze Period. The remains he turned up in a brief dig included streets and houses apparently laid waste in war.

To excavate the site conventionally would have meant a years-long expedition involving many thousands of man-hours, much of them spent digging fruitlessly into barren ground. Apart from the investment of time and money that would be required, the Golan's uncertain political situation made the launching of long-term archeological undertakings something of a risk. Kochavi opted for an unconventional approach together with a colleague from the university's geography department, Dr. Eyal Ben-Dor, an expert in the use of remote sensing devices.

"We decided to use a video thermal radiometer developed by Elbit," said Ben-Dor this week. "It can detect even very slight differences in soil temperatures and thereby indicate the presence of structures below the ground." Stones buried not far below the surface will retain more heat dur-



can detect even very slight differences in soil temperatures and thereby indicate the presence of structures below the ground. Stones buried not far below the surface will retain more heat dur-

ing the day from the sun than the surrounding soil. At night the stones surrender that heat more slowly than the soil. The thermal device can distinguish the ensuing temperature differences even from aircraft. The technology had originally been developed to permit warplanes to conduct night attacks on targets identified by their heat emissions.

The helicopter flight was carried out last October with Ben-Dor operating the thermal imaging instrument. The readings were taken before sunrise in order to avoid influence from sunlight and shadow. Archeology students positioned on the ground helped guide the pilot to the site. He flew between 2,000 and 4,000 feet as Ben-Dor recorded the digital readings onto tape recorders.

In the subsequent months, the readings were used to generate a map which suggested the existence of underground walls and other structures. When overlaid on air-photos of the site, some of the presumed underground walls seemed to be continuations of walls visible above the ground. Several test digs verified that the underground walls were indeed there.

KOCHAVI, delighted by the results, plans to request another flight in order to expand the area surveyed. Next summer he will undertake an excavation, using the thermal imaging like a treasure map. Similar imaging may also be used to establish whether the other Golan "enclosures" likewise mark the site of ancient cities.

"Normally, archeologists attack large tells with very small forces," says Kochavi, referring to the manpower available. "You may end up digging only 1 percent or 4 percent of a site so it's important to find the right place to excavate. The problem is always where to begin. You are guided by instinct and experience but much of it is left to chance. What you get with this instrument is something like a fuzzy X-ray but it enables you to say 'oh, here's something.' I'm sure that this is a method that will come into wide use." The Golan results are already being talked about in the profession, he says, even though they haven't been published yet.

Thermal imaging is not suitable for every site, notes Kochavi — not, for instance, where remains are deeply buried, and not for complex sites where the interwoven remains of many periods would produce only a confusing map.

Thermal sensors have been employed in satellites to uncover archeological sites in other parts of the world, says Ben-Dor, but there is a significant difference between those sensors and this. "With satellite sensors, the objects have to be very large before they can be picked up, something like 120 sq.m. at least. Also they will not pick up temperature differences smaller than about 1° centigrade. With the equipment we used we can pick up objects only half a meter wide and temperature differences as little as 0.1 percent."

Ben-Dor believes that thermal imaging has not been employed elsewhere in the world from aircraft for archeological purposes. "I've found no reference to it in the professional literature," he says.

The remains examined on the Golan are only five to 10cm. below the surface, which made it easy for the instrument to detect them. "It wouldn't work if the remains are 30cm. deep or more," says Ben-Dor.

It is essential, he says, that the soil and the archeological remains be of substantially different materials so that their temperature emissions are different. "If the walls were of mud brick we couldn't have distinguished between them and the soil around them," he says.

An Elbit official in charge of the thermal imaging program, Eli Cohen, revealed that the same equipment had previously been used by an Israeli researcher to scan the subsurface of Jerusalem's Temple Mount from the air and in the search for an ancient burial site in Hebron. Unlike on the Golan, however, these soundings were not intended to serve as a basis for excavations.

Cohen said the company had adapted the thermal imaging device in 1992 for civilian purposes. Weighing 8kg., the instrument together with ancillary equipment and software costs about \$90,000. It was made available for the archeological survey, says Cohen, partly as a public service and partly for technical information derived from the experiment by the company itself.

Not too many years ago Israeli archeologists refrained from using mine detectors, partly because it was considered "not sporting," partly because the devices were associated with antiquity robbers who used them in searching for coins. The archeologists have long since lost their shyness about using even high-tech instrumentation if it will help them decide where to put their low-tech shovels into the ground.



Japanese Consul Fumiaki Takahashi and his wife Yuki participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at the opening of Mikio Toki's kites exhibit at Haifa's Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art. (Eyal Landman)

Cutting through the Pyramids

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

IT WAS easier to cut the pyramids than to build them, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after he and Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny had cut through a huge cake adorned with marzipan replicas of the pyramids and the sphinx. Speaking at the Herzliya Country Club at the spectacular celebration marking the 44th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Egypt, Netanyahu noted that the relationship between the people of Israel and the people of Egypt has a longer history than that of any other two nations in the world. "I'm speaking in English," Netanyahu quipped to Bassiouny, "so you won't have to pretend that you don't understand me."

Minutes earlier, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who had been invited to join the Bassiounys and the Netanyahus on the podium, was enthusiastically embraced by the ambassador, who automatically began chatting to him in Arabic. Netanyahu, who wanted to join in the conversation, asked them to switch to a language he understands.

Engulfed by security men, eager photographers and enthusiastic supporters, a perspiring Netanyahu pumped flesh as if he were still on the campaign trail, assuring several people, "I got your fax, I got the message." One Egyptian woman was so elated at her proximity to the PM that she excitedly kept shouting "Bibi, Habibi!" It might have gone over well had he been running for office in Cairo.

JUST ABOUT everyone who was anyone was at the reception, and super VIPs were heralded in by name and trumpet fanfare. But there aren't enough days on the calendar to enable everyone to attend all the events to which they are invited. The monumental Egyptian bash, replete with breathtaking fireworks display, flying doves and hundreds of balloons floating skywards, clashed with the farewell dinner which the Israel-South Africa Chamber of Commerce held for South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza in Tel Aviv. The latter function, originally set for an earlier date, was rescheduled to suit the convenience of industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who is going to South Africa next month. President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma, who are long-standing personal friends of the Bassiounys, absented themselves from the reception this year, because it coincided with the fifth anniversary of the death in a car accident of their son Shaul and his wife Rachel.

APPROXIMATELY a third of the guests who crowded into the Herzliya Country Club, which is owned by shipping and real-estate magnate Yuli Ofer, subsequently made their way to another section of the grounds to participate in another gala affair — Ofer's birthday. Both Netanyahu and opposition leader Shimon Peres sat at the host's table, separated by Bassiouny and Ofer's elegant wife Rutie, whose magnificent full-skirted, fuchsia-pink ball gown trimmed with black lace captured all eyes. It's difficult to know what to give a multimillionaire for his birthday. Some people brought gifts. Others simply brought themselves. The best gift of all was Rutie Ofer's public declaration from the stage: "I love you, Yuli." The two then led other guests in a romantic slow dance to the strains of "I will always love you."

IT'S JUST as well for Belaynesh Zevadia, the newly appointed Israeli consul in Chicago (and the local Ethiopian community's first diplomatic representative), that she embarked on a diplomatic career in the post-Ben Gurion era. Under no circumstances would she Hebraicize her name, not even if it meant that she couldn't be a diplomat. Zevadia said at a reception hosted in her honor by the Israel office of the World Jewish Congress, Zevadia's second career choice was academia, which she

may eventually combine with diplomacy.

If he were the consul-general in Chicago, he would be worried, said a smiling Gideon Meir, the foreign minister's adviser on Diaspora communities, who has worked with Zevadia over the past year. Never has a new consul who has not yet taken up the appointment received as much publicity as Zevadia has to date, nor have there been so many requests from both Israel and abroad for interviews, he commented. Zevadia recently met with her old boss Ehad Gol, who is currently Israel's ambassador to Spain. "I had you pegged for consul in Chicago, the first time I laid eyes on you," he told her.

SIGN OF the times. Jonathan D. Sarna, professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, observed at a World Jewish Congress-sponsored lecture in Jerusalem that, for the first time in memory, "The New York Times" doesn't have a correspondent covering the Jewish community, and Ari Goldman, who did cover the beat, is now at Columbia writing a book about — Islam."

WHEN HE was mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek used to boycott diplomatic events in which separate receptions were held for Israelis and Palestinians. As a private citizen, Kollek is apparently unrestricted by the same compunctions. This week he accepted the invitation of Belgian Consul-General Count Michael Goblet d'Alviella. Another guest, author and retired architect Saadiya Netanyahu, who engaged various people in political discourse, was heard to remark that, his nephew knows how to deal with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. His nephew, as it happens, is the prime minister.

IT'S CELEBRITY week with a capital C. A Jerusalem 3000 delegation of major American media personalities and business leaders, due to fly in on Monday, includes such heavyweights as Larry King, Jeane Kirkpatrick and Alan Dershowitz. The 40-member group is arriving under the auspices of the Jerusalem Fund of Aish HaTorah in coordination with the US Jerusalem 3000 committee. Some of the members will be presented with the Jerusalem 3000 award at a gala dinner at the Knesset which will also be attended by the prime minister, Jerusalem Mayor Ehad Olmert, and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

SPEAKING TO an almost overflow audience at the Center for Conservative Judaism's Monday Forum, Professor David Passow, who just authored a book, "The Prime of Yiddish," revealed that in a 1930 census, 690,000 Jews living in New York claimed Yiddish as their mother tongue; and that in 1921 there were 12 Yiddish daily newspapers in New York City alone, plus many more in other parts of the US. Today there are none. Oy vey!

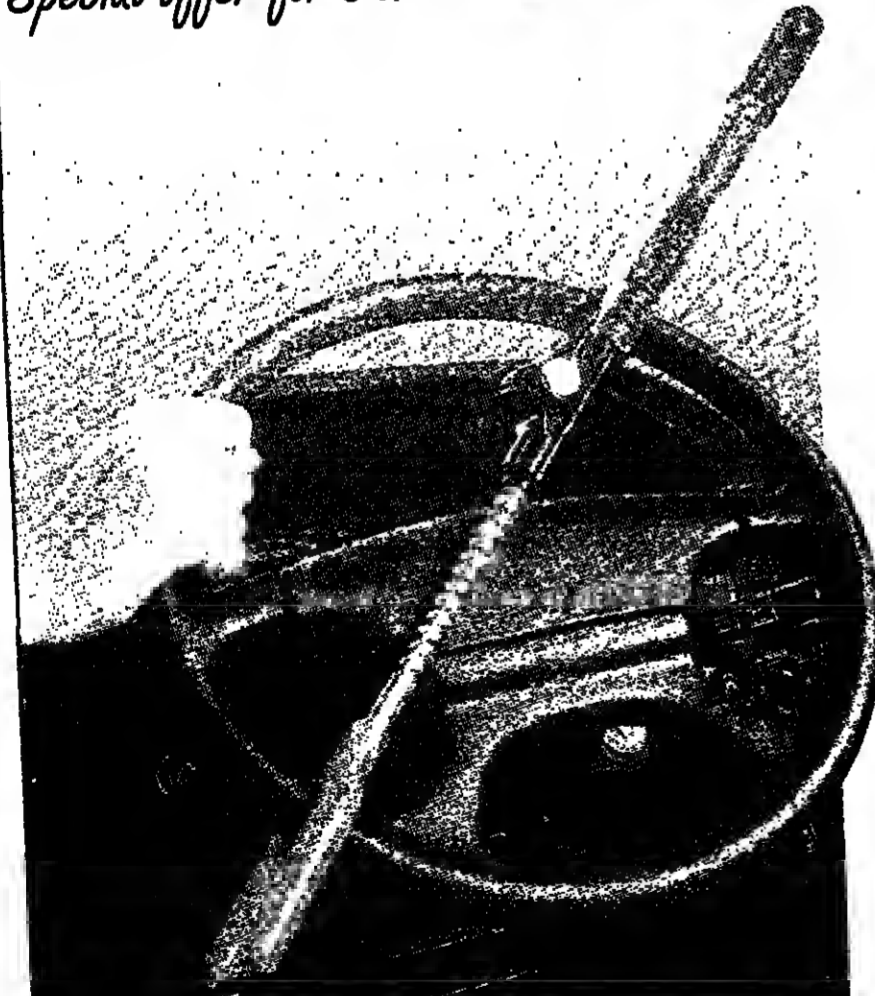
JAPANESE CONSUL Fumiaki Takahashi and his wife Yuki participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at the opening of Mikio Toki's kites exhibit at Haifa's Tikotin Museum of Japanese Art. Occidental participants in the ceremony included museum director Nissim Tal and staunch museum supporters Menahem and Geula Liba'i, who acquitted themselves as if to the tradition born.

DISENCHANTED BY the Netanyahu administration well before the 100 days of grace are up, TV ratings king Dudu Topaz has intimated that he may throw his own hat into the ring the next time around, and run for election in 2000. If Ronald Reagan could move from the world of entertainment into the Oval Office, there's no reason to suppose that Topaz would be any less successful on the local scene. It would certainly put the noses of Ehad Barak, Haim Ramon and Uzi Baram out of joint. The question is: Would the *tchah-tchah* vote for him?

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03-6882192

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, July 26, 1996

15

UMB workers call on customers to withdraw funds; bank may sue

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

UNITED Mizrahi Bank's board of directors is considering taking legal action against the bank's workers' committee...

meat has created a situation "which may result in the bank's closure." The workers' committee...

Survey: Business-sector liquidity dwindling

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ABOUT 75 percent of all negative indicators on companies reflect that they are encountering severe liquidity problems...

The survey is based on its so-called "red light" data of negative indicators on its 80,000 surveyed companies in the first half of 1996.

The infrastructure and building sectors experienced the highest percentage of negative indicators...

6% of all firms experiencing liquidity problems. Other sectors with a relatively high percentage of negative indicators include services (17%), food (9%), textiles (7%), electricity and electronics (6%), and building products (6%).

Koby Friedlin, general manager of BDI's economic division, said there is a strong link between the red light indicators and the risk rate of companies and businesses.

Other high-risk sectors include food, textiles, and building products. Less risky sectors are pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, metals and metal products, plastics, rubber, and chemicals.

Capital markets panel to hold first meeting today

DAVID HARRIS

THE newly formed committee on structural changes in the capital markets is scheduled to meet today for the first time.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, as part of his effort to review the structures of all sectors in the economy, established the committee earlier this week...

In view of what the Finance Ministry refers to as "the current problems" on the markets, Meridor has asked the committee to draw its conclusions and make recommendations no later than September 12.

The capital markets are a central part of the capital-gathering mechanisms for the business sec-

tor, he said. A number of structural changes are required, and that is what the committee has to do, he added.

Four specific tasks have been outlined for the committee to work on: the desired structure for savings in the economy; incentives for and taxation of savings; coordination of legislation, regulation, and inspection of the capital markets; and policy formation for the money, capital, and foreign currency markets.

Other members of the committee are Prof. Amir Barnea, lawyer Arye Mintkevitch, Prof. Yitzhak Swari, Dr. Shulab Pessah, Dr. David Klein, and

Supervisor of Capital Markets Doron Shorer. Shaul Braunfeld, director-general of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, will sit in on committee meetings.

Meanwhile, the anticipated meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Meridor, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, scheduled for Wednesday night, was cancelled at the last minute by Netanyahu. The three were to have discussed final proposals for structural reforms in the economy, principally demonopolization. It now seems that meeting will not take place this week...



Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus (left) listens to opposition leader Milos Zeman after a debate on a motion of no-confidence in Klaus's minority government. The vote on the motion, which was defeated, followed three days of debate on the government's program of economic reforms and sale of state assets.

IBM profits drop but are still above expectations

COMPANY RESULTS REUTERS

ARMONK, NY — IBM Corp. said yesterday it earned \$1.3 billion in the second quarter, and though the results were down from \$1.7b. a year earlier, they were stronger than Wall Street had expected.

The profit, equal to \$2.51 a share, compared with \$2.97 a year ago and came on increased revenue of \$18.18b., up from \$17.53b.

Wall Street analysts had expected IBM to report income of \$1.44 a share, according to First Call. IBM's shares jumped \$3.625 to \$95 in pre-open trading.

The results were expected to boost the sagging technology sector on the stock market. "Considering that sales were up \$1.5b. even though margins were down it still looked pretty impressive," said Thom Brown, a managing director of Rutherford Brown and Catherwood.

IBM Chairman Louis Gerstner said results were affected by short-term factors, including a drop in the prices of computer memory chips and currency exchange.

"This was a tough quarter, as we had expected," Gerstner said.

IBM said its total gross profit margin slipped to 39.5 percent from 43.5%.

Sales of hardware totalled \$8.6b., down 1% from a year earlier, while personal computer sales increased in all market segments, the company said.

Revenues from North America increased 11% from a year ago to \$7.8b. Revenues from Europe, the Middle East and Africa declined 2% to \$6b. Asia Pacific revenues were flat at \$3.6b., and revenues from Latin America grew 6% to \$786 million.

Excluding the effects of currency, Asia-Pacific revenues grew 19% and Latin America revenues gained 6%, while European revenues climbed 2%. Gerstner said shipments of Lotus Notes software doubled during the quarter. Since IBM's acquisition of Lotus Notes a year ago, the number of individual users has increased to 6.3m. from 2.2m., he said.

Gerstner noted that IBM took steps to strengthen its position in the computer memory storage area through an agreement with Storage Technology Corp. that provides customers with a wider range of storage products.

He said IBM's acquisition of Tivoli Systems Inc., a computer network management company acquired in the first quarter, produced "outstanding" results.

IBM said it closed nearly \$4b. in new service contracts in the quarter as its services business revenues grew 23%.

Britain announces £4b. in defense orders

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain announced aircraft and missile orders worth some £4 billion yesterday with British Aerospace Plc and General Electric Plc winning the prime roles.

Defense Minister Michael Portillo told reporters after a cabinet meeting that an Anglo-US consortium led by British Aerospace (BAe) has won the bid to modernize Britain's fleet of aging Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft in a deal valued by the Defence Ministry at over £2b.

GEC won a separate competition for an advanced air-launched anti-tank missile in an order currently valued at £700 million, with its Brimstone "fire-and-forget" missile, a variant of the US Hellfire missile.

Meanwhile BAe in partnership with French firm Matra has been chosen for an order worth £800m. for an advanced air-launched cruise missile based on Matra's Apache weapon.

Portillo said the move would also cement plans by BAe and Matra to merge their missile businesses as a major step toward the consolidation of the European defense industry.

Matra's parent Lagardere Groupe and BAe announced in May they had agreed to form a new joint venture to be called Matra BAe Dynamics, but the French

government had threatened to block the deal if Britain did not buy Apache.

The news came as a relief to the winning companies after months of intense lobbying and fears this week that some of the orders could be delayed or even canceled by the Treasury due to its concerns over government spending.

Recent press reports said the orders were saved only after Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine intervened in a row between Portillo and Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke.

Portillo confirmed yesterday that the orders were allowed through only after Clarke's concerns had been allayed.

"It is understandable. The Chancellor of the Exchequer being a very responsible Chancellor wants to make sure that we can afford these very large orders," he told BBC radio.

He later said in a statement that the government had committed itself to releasing more resources from defense support to enhance its frontline capability.

"The announcement today of three major orders for the Royal Air Force follows through that commitment," he said.

Portillo said the orders would sustain 5,000 British jobs and the spending would be spread over the next 10 years.

Cabinet to discuss Hapoalim's sale of Clal shares

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE cabinet will discuss Finance Minister Dan Meridor's proposed approval of Bank Hapoalim's sale of 5.5 percent of Clal Israel's shares at its meeting today.

According to the new Bank (Licensing) Law, passed earlier this year to limit the banks' non-banking activities, Bank Hapoalim must cut its holdings in non-financial firms to 25% or less by December 31.

As a result, it must dispose of 5.5% of its shares in Clal, among other holdings. To go ahead with the sale, the bank must obtain government approval.

Meridor's proposal, which is coordinated with the Bank of Israel's supervisor of banks and the Ministry of Industry and Trade's commissioner of business limitations, entitles Bank Hapoalim to sell the shares to several purchasers, including the IDB Group, in transactions outside the stock exchange.

BITS AND BYTES JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Aladdin announces latest product: Aladdin Knowledge Systems has announced the release of its latest product, R3. The new system represents the next generation of the Tel Aviv-based company's Hardware Against Software Privacy technology...

GDS releases new software: GDS has announced the release of its new software product known as Reality Check, which allows architects, builders, and urban planners to view computerized models in real time.

Genzyme establishes Israel subsidiary: Genzyme, a Massachusetts-based biotechnology company, has announced the establishment of an Israel-based subsidiary, Genzyme, one of the five largest bio-tech companies in America...

Intel searches for infrastructure developers: Intel representatives recently held a meeting in Kiryat Gat for 250 contractors, air conditioning companies, and electricians to discuss opportunities to work in building its \$1.6 billion factory. The factory will employ 1,500 people upon opening, and eventually double that number.

Internet Zahav and Microsoft strike deal: Internet Zahav and Microsoft have signed a joint venture agreement by which subscribers to Microsoft's Business Pack will receive 10 free hours on the Internet through Internet Zahav.

Magic Software provides technology to British company: Magic Software has been selected by W.H. Smith News, the largest distributor of newspapers and magazines in Great Britain, to provide it with managerial applications. The \$500,000 contract will allow W.H. Smith to supply Magic's programs to 1,000 users within the company.

MS Communications represents international PR firm: MS Communications, a Tel Aviv-based public relations firm that represents a number of high-tech companies, has recently appointed Burson-Marsteller's affiliate partner in Israel, Burson-Marsteller is an international public relations firm.

Net Scene gets thumbs up from CompuServe: Net Scene's Point Plus Internet program, developed in Herzliya, will be recommended and marketed to CompuServe subscribers, according to a recently signed agreement between the two companies. Based in Ohio, CompuServe is the largest Internet access provider, with 5 million clients worldwide.

Silicon Graphics develops graphics for videogame giants: Silicon Graphics has been selected by video game giants Nintendo, Sega, and Sony to provide programming for the visual and 3-D aspects of their games. Silicon Graphics designs, manufactures, markets, and services visual processing computer systems.

Team supplies computerized system to Kupat Holim: Team Computers has won the tender to provide its computer system to monitor the distribution of medicines to members of Kupat Holim Macabi. Team competed with IBM, NCC, TDSI, and Teldor for the NIS 600,000 contract.

Tower signs agreement with CA semiconductor company: Tower Semiconductor recently announced the signing of a letter of understanding with the privately-owned California-based WaterScale Integration. According to the long-term agreement, the companies will work together to develop, produce, and market semiconductor technology.

Wizec buys American company: Wizec Solutions has announced its purchase of Business Systems, a South Carolina subscriber management systems provider. Wizec, a Herzliya-based company, develops, markets, and supports "Wizart" computer software, which provides subscriber management systems to multi-channel subscription television system operators.

Correction: Dovrat Shrem, the Polaris Fund, and Mirage invested

OTI raises \$8.25m. in private placement

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ON Track Innovations Ltd., a Rosh Pina-based maker of smart card products, has raised \$8.25 million in a private placement administered by Credit Lyonnais Securities, OTI announced yesterday.

The transaction raises the company's value to about \$63 million, said Ofer Ziperman, OTI's vice president of marketing. A spokesman for Credit Lyonnais estimated that OTI's 1996 sales will exceed \$6 million.

The placement is the second such transaction for the company, traded on the TASE. In 1995, the company, which expects to go public overseas within the next two years, raised \$700,000 in a private placement. Founded in 1990, the company

develops and manufactures smart cards that can be used as electronic purses, identification tools and in electronic parking facilities.

The company's Portrac contactless card, which relies on the inductive nature of electromagnetic fields at low frequencies, is able to transfer data by being waved in front of an electronic eye from distances of up to 15 centimeters and at various angles.

British Petroleum, the French gas company Total, and 30 kibbutzim, which use the cards for identification purposes, are among OTI's clients. The company is currently discussing its product with local banks. Smart card pilot projects are expected to begin toward the end of the year.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Rows include U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.7.96)

Table with columns: CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES, Rep. Rates. Rows include various currencies like U.S. dollar, German mark, French franc, Japanese yen, etc.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1620
Sterling ... NIS 4.9174
Mark ... NIS 2.1271

INTRA-STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
DJ Industrial 4111.54 +0.72
DJ Transport 1944.51 -0.15

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 3664.7 -18.9
Nikkei 225 14,212.1 -11.1

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE/AMEX
Amir 34.5 0
Amir A 4.75 +0.075

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
NEW YORK
Alcoa 24.875 +0
Chrysler 24.875 +0
Coca Cola 24.875 +0

Good IBM results in New York help boost London shares

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP
LONDON - A buoyant start on Wall Street sent shares higher as better-than-expected second quarter earnings from International Business Machines Corp helped steady nerves over the outlook for corporate profits.

PARIS - Shares closed more than one percent higher, after a 1.42 percent drop on Wednesday, with Wall Street leading the dance. Big gains in the Dow Jones index during the afternoon, after drops on Tuesday and Wednesday, pulled French shares back from their lows.

FRANKFURT - Shares closed higher across the board in a technical reaction to Wednesday's losses of almost three percent. Bullish sentiment prevailed throughout the day as slight overnight gains on

Bond markets see-saw

LONDON, JULY 25 (Reuters) - This is how major world bond markets were trading in late European business yesterday. GERMANY - Bonds and futures were higher in late dealings, struggling off the Bundesbank's decision to trim its repo rate.

FRANCE - The French yield curve flattened after the decision by the German Bundesbank to leave its repo rate unchanged, expectations that it would lower the rate for the first time since February.

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - International media tycoon Rupert Murdoch is expected to take a substantial stake in Premiere, Germany's only pay TV channel, according to a German media newsletter to be published today.

Russian inflation down but trend may not last

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian inflation looks set to fall to a new post-reform low in July but government hopes of limiting price rises to just 20 percent this year may be too optimistic, economists said yesterday.

month in January 1995 to 1.2 percent last month. The government set an inflation target of 1.9 percent a month in the 1996 budget but Economy Minister Yevgey Yasin said earlier this month the year-on-year rate could reach 30 percent by the end of the year.

Murdoch seen buying stake in German pay TV group

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - International media tycoon Rupert Murdoch is expected to take a substantial stake in Premiere, Germany's only pay TV channel, according to a German media newsletter to be published today.

take up to 49 percent of DFL. BSkyB had been in an alliance with Bertelsmann, French media groups Canal Plus and Havas, but recently left that alliance and teamed up with Kirch.

Iran's rial unaffected by new US sanctions

TEHRAN (Reuters) - The Iranian rial has held steady against the US dollar despite hardened US sanctions against the Islamic republic, dealers said yesterday.

France to hit back if hurt by Helms-Burton

PARIS (Reuters) - France will respond with its own measures on top of any European Union retaliation if French firms are hurt by the US Helms-Burton law, tightening sanctions against Cuba and firms involved there, trade minister Yves Galland said yesterday.

Dow, other indexes, rise

WALL STREET REPORT
NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks cruised through yesterday's session after an early jump on an encouraging profit report from IBM that helped restore some investor confidence about the computer sector's prospects.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SFY FFF
STERLING 2.280707 78.3255 0.810088 3.322934

INTRA-MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crosses (US)

Libor rates
Dollar 3 months 5.625 0
Dollar 6 months 5.625 0

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INTRA-COMMODITIES MARKETS
US commodities
Coffee (Arabica) 1.381 +0.005

London commodities
Coffee (Arabica) 897 -8
Coffee (Robusta) 1511 -16

Spot market metals (US)
Gold spot 364.95 -0.9
Silver spot 4.91 -0.01

New York metal futures
Gold (Feb) 364.75 -0.2
Silver (Feb) 4.91 -0.01

London metal futures
Gold (Feb) 364.75 -0.2
Silver (Feb) 4.91 -0.01

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MORESHET YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agron, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi, Friday Mincha 6:30 p.m., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Mincha 6:00 p.m., Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction, Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m., Worship hour, 10:45 a.m., Tel. 09-574661

Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yafo, 15 Beer Hofman (near 17 Eilat Street), Tel. 03-682654 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

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TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Susan and Arnon Roland-Rosenberg Collection: 24 master pieces of modern artists. Pavilion: "Wild Beasts", Josef Bayus: Drawings and Objects. Primit: new acquisitions. New Horizons: Sculpture. "Face to Face" The Museum Collections, HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour games and workshop. I Am You, Artists Against Violence, 20 posters. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-10 p.m., 10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-5.

ART GUIDE

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THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa University), Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in the Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur., 10-4; Tue., 10-7, Fri., 10-1, Sat. 10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

Museums
OLD YEHUVA COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century - World War II, 6 Or Hanam, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Susan and Arnon Roland-Rosenberg Collection: 24 master pieces of modern artists. Pavilion: "Wild Beasts", Josef Bayus: Drawings and Objects. Primit: new acquisitions. New Horizons: Sculpture. "Face to Face" The Museum Collections, HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Summer Exhibition for Children: Celebration of Colour games and workshop. I Am You, Artists Against Violence, 20 posters. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-10 p.m., 10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-5.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, July 26
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Angdon, 670-680; Balsam, Selah, e-Dm, 627-2315; Shustat, Shustat Ramat, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Milano Sq., 1 Yehuda Hamelechi, 604-2308; Arlosoroff, 78 Arlosoroff, 525-0746.
Ra'anana-Kfar Saver Magriet, 54 Derech Magdel, Hod Hasharon, 915567.
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 823839.
Krayot area: Niv Pham, 13 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-0715.
Haifa: Magen David, 13 Geula, 862-5205; Herzliya: Clal Pham, Bet Merkazim, 8 Masaki (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pham, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, July 19
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics); Shir Haim (ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, July 27
Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Arlosoroff, 670-680, (evening) Center Pham, Har Hahokhmim, 589-3744, (day and evening) Balsam, Selah, e-Dm, 6272315; Shustat, Shustat Ramat, 5810108; Dar Adawa, Herod's Gate, 282058. Tel Aviv: Shilomo Hamelech, 78 Shilomo Hamelech, 624-6461; Brur, 28 King Georgea, 528-3731. Till midnight.
Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einseim, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministora, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 626-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Saver: (day) Arim mail, Katznelson, Kfar Sava, 787-7908; (evening) Shor-Tabachnik, Hatzomet mail, Kfar Sava, 782-5850.
Netanya: Hasharon mail, Herzl, 617766.
Krayot area: Superpharm, Hakiryon, 44

Hapelmat, Kiryat Beak, 877-9320.
Haifa: Massada, 30 Massada, 866-5806.
Herzliya: Clal Pham, Bet Merkazim, 6 Masaki (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pham, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 570468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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Paul Volcker to head Swiss Jewish commission

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker will be named to head a Swiss-Jewish commission probing whether assets from Holocaust victims remain in Swiss banks, a commission source said.

The source told Reuters that the six-member group, formed last May after an international controversy, agreed to name Volcker, who served as Fed chairman during the inflationary period of the late 1970s and the recession of the early 1980s. He is chairman of Wolfensohn and Co., a New York investment bank that recently was bought by Bankers Trust.

The Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Congress agreed to form the commission last May, after an argument over whether Swiss bank secrecy laws were preventing survivors or their families from retrieving assets deposited in Swiss banks during and before World War II.

ROSS

(Continued from Page 1)
wants a sense of the direction of peace talks before he resumes them.

"He does not want to start at square one," an official said. "Syria is not shutting the door to talks, but we are now looking for a formula before those talks start again," a US official said.

It remains unclear what the basis for the talks would be since Assad has made clear in the past that there is no use for talks so long as Israel says in advance that it intends to retain sovereignty on the Golan.

Assad also does not see any advantage in starting talks before the US election in November, as he believes that until that election is over, there is no way the Clinton administration will press the Netanyahu government.

Assad believes that only US pressure can secure Israeli concessions.

Ross is to meet Foreign Minister David Levy today, and was expected to meet Arafat in Gaza either on his return late yesterday or today.

Earlier yesterday, Ross told reporters in Amman that Washington cannot force the Arabs and Israelis to resume peace talks if they do not wish to do so.

The US "is concerned with finding the best way to go ahead with the peace process," Ross said. But he added, "Ultimately, it is not the US that will decide, it is the parties that will decide for themselves. What we can do is to find ways to work with the parties concerned to promote the chance for progress."

Presidential spokesman Joubran

Kourichi said that Vice-President Abdel-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Shara were present at the meeting, held at the presidential palace in Latakia, some 320 km. north of Damascus.

Also present was Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, and Hanan Ashrawi, responsible for higher education in the Palestinian Authority, he said.

Ashrawi said that Arafat held a "very positive meeting" with Shara before the talks with Assad.

In a statement to reporters, Arafat said he was pleased to listen to the valuable advice from President Assad on how to confront the challenges facing us not only as Palestinians, but also as Arabs.

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Diplomats said that during the talks, Arafat might allude to the activities of several Damascus-based Palestinian opposition groups that have vowed to wreck the Oslo accords.

Last night, Netanyahu held a phone conversation with French President Jacques Chirac. They discussed Lebanon and Syria and agreed to exchange visits, with Chirac coming here in September and Netanyahu going to Paris the following month.

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Woman murderer released from prison

News agencies

ANAM Jabari, jailed since 1988 for killing a yeshiva student, walked out of Neveh Tirza prison yesterday after receiving a presidential pardon in accordance with the Oslo accords.

She had served eight years of her 12-year sentence for shooting 18-year-old Eliezer Schlesinger in Jerusalem's Sacher Park in 1988, authorities said.

Jabari, a Jerusalem resident, spoke to no one, got into a car with Israeli license plates, and was driven away.

She was released after she signed a document promising to refrain from "further acts of terrorism."

"She signed a commitment vowing not to engage in terrorist activity," Prisons Service spokesman Moshe Malul said.

Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman yesterday added his name to President Ezer Weizman's order to pardon Jabari and May Ghusein, who is serving a life sentence for seriously wounding a tourist and murdering a cellmate she suspected of being a collaborator.

Ne'eman signed the order only after the High Court of Justice on Wednesday rejected a petition against the pardons.

Ghusein, however, refused to leave prison while three other Palestinian women prisoners remain in jail.

The three remaining prisoners, convicted by military courts, must have their sentences commuted by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan.



Anam Jabari (shirt over head) leaves Neveh Tirza Prison yesterday. Several dozen other Palestinian

woman prisoners who have been pardoned have refused to leave jail in solidarity with the remaining few who have not been pardoned. However, Jabari's release is expected to clear the way for this. Israel Radio reported that Dayan had decided to pardon the three, but the army had no information yesterday on whether or when that might happen.

Prisons Service offers Klingberg 'a few hours' leave from jail

Jerusalem Post Staff

PRISONS Service and security officials have come up with a proposal to allow convicted spy Marcus Klingberg to leave jail for a few hours for the first time in 14 years.

However, Klingberg's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, said the offer isn't good enough.

Earlier this month, after the parole committee rejected Klingberg's request to be released early from jail for security reasons, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Oded Mudrik asked the security forces to suggest conditions for granting Klingberg a leave.

Yesterday, the conditions for the leave were made public. They include the following terms:

- the leave will last only a few hours
- the time of the leave will be secret to prevent media coverage
- the venue of the leave will be

coordinated with the Prisons Service

• Prisons Service personnel will accompany Klingberg at all times

• only first-degree relatives and a close friend of Klingberg's will be allowed to see him

• journalists will be barred from seeing or interviewing him

• the phone in the place where he will spend the time will be disconnected throughout the visit

• he will not be allowed to write letters unless they are inspected by Prisons Service personnel

Klingberg's request for parole was rejected on the grounds that he still possesses information that could severely damage Israel's security.

Feldman said he will demand that Klingberg be given a leave of 24 or 48 hours like any regular prisoner. The next hearing will be held on August 5.

Three dolphins protect British diver from sharks

Jerusalem Post Staff

A BRITISH tourist who was attacked by sharks in the Gulf of Akaba on Tuesday was saved by three dolphins, according to Israeli divers who witnessed the scene.

Martin Richardson, 29, was reported to be in stable condition in an Egyptian hospital yesterday.

The incident occurred near Sharm e-Sheikh at the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula. Richardson was among four British tourists who had sailed aboard an Eilat-based vessel, the *Jadran*, to dive in the waters of the Red Sea.

The *Jadran's* captain, Yitzhak Hermon, said that he had stopped the boat a kilometer off the Sinai shore to permit the passengers to watch a group of dolphins cavorting nearby.

"Three people went into the water to swim with them," Hermon said. "When the two others came back, Richardson decided to stay in the water a bit."

"Suddenly we heard him scream. We thought it was a joke at first. Dolphins never attack humans. Then we saw him leap in the air and blood stained the water all around him. We understood that he was being attacked by sharks."

One of the crew sped to Richardson's aid in a rubber boat. When he reached him, he saw the injured man being circled by three dolphins, who leaped into the air, smacked the water with their tails and flippers, and placed themselves between Richardson and the sharks.

Oz Goffman, director of the Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center in Haifa, said that such behavior is known in cases where dolphins are protecting their young from sharks. However, he said, he knew of no previous instance of dolphins defending humans against sharks. He said that a dolphin could kill a shark by ramming it.

There have been reports, he said, of dolphins guiding to shore sailors whose ships had gone down, and even letting the sailors ride on their backs.

There are only two other recorded cases of serious shark attacks in the Gulf of Akaba in the past 50 years, Goffman said.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Slight rise in temperatures. Shabbat: Gradual rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	12	18	cloudy
Bangkok	24	30	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	12	18	cloudy
Chicago	18	24	partly cloudy
Hong Kong	24	30	cloudy
London	12	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	clear
Manila	24	30	partly cloudy
Medan	24	30	partly cloudy
Paris	12	18	partly cloudy
Perth	18	24	partly cloudy
Rangoon	24	30	partly cloudy
Singapore	24	30	partly cloudy
Tokyo	18	24	partly cloudy
Yokohama	18	24	partly cloudy
Zurich	12	18	cloudy

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Raphael Patai, first Ph.D at Hebrew U., dies at 85

RAPHAEL Patai, a prolific anthropologist and expert in Jewish and Arab culture, died of cancer Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. Patai, 85, wrote dozens of books on Jewish and Middle Eastern culture, the life of the ancient Jewish people, on history, politics, psychology and folk-

Originally from Budapest, Patai studied at the Hebrew University and in 1936 received the university's first doctorate. He came to the United States in 1947, when the tensions in Palestine made it difficult for him to find support for his research. *The New York Times* said in yesterday's editions. In the US, he held a number of academic posts.

Patai's books included *The Arab Mind* (1916), *The Jewish Mind* (1977), *The Seed of Abraham: Jews and Arabs in Contact and Conflict* (1983), *Golden River to Golden Road: Society, Culture and Change in the Middle East* (1966), *The Myth of the Jewish Race* (1975), and *The Jews of Hungary: History, Culture, Psychology*, which was published this year. His book *Jewish Seafaring in Ancient Times* is awaiting publication.

In his books, Patai retold ancient tales, seeing them as windows into the everyday life, culture and psychology of ancient peoples.

The poet Robert Graves was a fan of one such book, and wrote to Patai to point out similarities between ancient Hebrew and Roman myths.

That letter set the stage for three books: *Hebrew Myths: The Book of Genesis*, a 1964 collaboration with Graves; *The Hebrew Goddess*, in which Patai wrote of their joint thesis that the stories of an ancient Jewish goddess-worshipping sect had been excised from scripture; and *Robert Graves and the Hebrew Myths*, Patai's 1992 account of their collaboration and correspondence.

Patai is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Schneider of Tucson, Arizona and Daphne Patai of Amherst, Massachusetts, and a brother, Prof. Saul Patai of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

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